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the
APOCALYPSE
OF
EZRA

EXERCISES

Translations of
Early Documents

BS
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TRANSLATIONS OF EARLY DOCUMENTS
SERIES I
PALESTINIAN JEWISH TEXTS
(PRE-RABBINIC)

THE APOCALYPSE OF EZRA

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THE APOCALYPSE OF EZRA

(II ESDRAS III-XIV)

TRANSLATED FROM THE SYRIAC TEXT,
WITH BRIEF ANNOTATIONS

BY

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SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE
LONDON: 68, HAYMARKET, S.W.

1917

Thorntons
Oxford
L-A

EDITORS' PREFACE

THE object of this series of translations is primarily to furnish students with short, cheap, and handy text-books, which, it is hoped, will facilitate the study of the particular texts in class under competent teachers. But it is also hoped that the volumes will be acceptable to the general reader who may be interested in the subjects with which they deal. It has been thought advisable, as a general rule, to restrict the notes and comments to a small compass; more especially as, in most cases, excellent works of a more elaborate character are available. Indeed, it is much to be desired that these translations may have the effect of inducing readers to study the larger works.

Our principal aim, in a word, is to make some difficult texts, important for the study of Christian origins, more generally accessible in faithful and scholarly translations.

In most cases these texts are not available in a cheap and handy form. In one or two cases texts have been included of books which are available in the official Apocrypha; but in every such case reasons exist for putting forth these texts in a new translation, with an Introduction, in this series.

W. O. E. OESTERLEY.
G. H. Box.

INTRODUCTION

SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE BOOK

THE Fourth Book of Ezra—or, as it appears in our official Apocrypha, *2 Esdras*—is, in the form in which it appears in our Bibles, an enlarged book. The original work, which forms the Apocalypse proper, consists of chapters iii.—xiv. of *2 Esdras*, and in the Oriental Versions these chapters form the complete Book. That is to say, chapters i.—ii. and xv.—xvi. of our *2 Esdras* do not appear in the Oriental Versions of the Book at all; they are, in fact, later additions (probably Christian ones) to the Latin translation of the Apocalypse.

The Apocalypse of Ezra (= *2 Esdras* iii.—xiv.) is extant in a Latin and several Oriental translations which are all based upon a lost Greek Version, and this latter, again, upon an original Hebrew text (also completely lost).

The Apocalypse itself appears to be a composite work which was redacted in its present form by an Editor about the year A.D. 120. The material used by him and embodied in the Book consists of a Salathiel Apocalypse (cf. iii. 1) which is contained mainly in chapters iii.—x. of *2 Esdras*. This work, originally written in the name of Salathiel (= Shealtiel), the father of Zerubbabel, who lived through the Exile, is embodied in practically a complete form in our Apocalypse. It seems to have been written and published in Hebrew about the year A.D. 100. To it the final Editor appended three pieces derived from other sources, viz. (1) the famous Eagle-Vision (chs. xi.—xii.) and (2) the Son of Man Vision (ch. xiii.)—both extracted apparently from a Book of Dream-Visions—and (3) the Ezra-Legend (ch. xiv. mainly).

There are, naturally, traces of the final Editor's hand throughout in redactional links and adjustments, and also possibly some extracts from an eschatological source detailing the signs which are to precede the End of the World (iv. 52—v. 13a, vi. 11–29). The whole compilation is parallel with the twin (Syriac) Apocalypse of Baruch, which may have been edited in its final form somewhat later. The importance of both Apocalypses for the study of Jewish and Christian theology is very great, and will be referred to more fully below.

TITLE

It is interesting to note that in the Latin MSS. the additional chapters (i.–ii. xv.–xvi.) are distinguished, as a rule, by a separate enumeration. Different arrangements prevail, but the following is a widely accepted one—

- 1 Esdras = the Canonical Ezra-Nehemiah.
- 2 Esdras = 2 Esdras i.–ii. of our Apocrypha.
- 3 Esdras = 1 Esdras of our Apocrypha.
- 4 Esdras = 2 Esdras iii.–xiv. of our Apocrypha (*i. e.* = our Apocalypse).
- 5 Esdras = 2 Esdras xv.–xvi. of our Apocrypha.

The Oriental Versions also vary in the titles given to our Book. In the Ethiopic and Arabic it is called *The First Book of Ezra* (cf. also colophon at end of Syriac translation, following xiv. 50); the title given at the head of the Syriac translation is: *The Book of Ezra the Scribe, who is called Salathiel*. Clement of Alexandria quotes from the lost Greek Version as 'Εσδρας ὁ προφήτης, and this may have been the title of the Book in the (lost) Greek translation.

THE ANCIENT VERSIONS

The standard text is, of course, the Latin, and the Latin Version has been preserved in a considerable number of Latin MSS. of the Bible. But 4 Esdras is no part of the Latin Bible proper; it is usually printed

as an Appendix to the Vulgate, and certainly was prized among readers of the Latin Bible. The Vulgate text, as printed, is very corrupt, but considerable progress has been made during comparatively recent years in the formation of a critical text.¹ The English reader can see many of these results clearly set forth by a comparison of the A.V. and Revised Version of the Book in our official Apocrypha.

One striking difference which comes to view in the R.V. is that in chapter vii. a long passage of some seventy verses is inserted between verses 35 and 36, which is absent from the A.V. This is the famous Missing Fragment which was absent from all known Latin MSS. of the Book till the late Professor R. L. Bensly discovered (in 1875) the text in a ninth-century MS., which was then in the possession of the communal library of Amiens.² The passage had been cut out apparently for dogmatic reasons, but is extant in all the Oriental Versions.

The Latin Version, like the Oriental ones, was made from the lost Greek Version, and is undoubtedly very early. It was well known to Ambrose of Milan, who cites freely from it. As a whole it is singularly faithful and literal, and is the most valuable of the Ancient Versions that have come down to us.

The English translations in the A.V. and R.V. are, of course, based primarily upon the Latin text. The Oriental Versions include a Syriac, Ethiopic, two Arabic, and an Armenian, and some fragments in other versions (Georgian, etc.). Of these by far the most valuable is the Syriac, from which the following translation is made. The Syriac text depends upon a single MS., the great Ambrosian Bible Codex at

¹ Fritzsche's *Libri Vet. Test. Pseudepigraphi Selecti* (appended to his *Libri Apocryphi Vet. Test. Graece*, Leipzig, 1871) marked an advance; *The Fourth Book of Ezra*, ed. by Bensly and James, Cambridge, 1895, is the best available edition in many ways.

² Prof. Bensly published a valuable edition of this discovery: *The Missing Fragment of the Fourth Book of Ezra* (Cambridge, 1875).

Milan. The text has been published by Ceriani. In the MS. our Book is preceded by the Apocalypse of Baruch, and is followed by the canonical books of Ezra and Nehemiah, which are reckoned as a single book, viz. *The Second Book of Ezra*. Though our book is not given the title of *The First Book of Ezra*, a colophon at the end of the version says *Ended is the first discourse of Ezra*, which presumably implies such an enumeration. The Syriac Version is, on the whole, singularly faithful, though it betrays occasionally a tendency to amplify.

The Ethiopic text was first published in 1820 by Richard Laurence, afterwards Archbishop of Cashel. A critical text, based upon several MSS., was prepared by Dillmann, and published after his death. A French translation of this (by Basset) appeared in 1899. The Ethiopic is much more paraphrastic than the Syriac, but occasionally attests valuable readings.

There are two Arabic Versions (Ar.¹ Ar.²), and also an Armenian Version, which are of less value. For further details see *E.A.*, General Introduction.

The lost Greek text, on which all the Versions (with the possible exception of the Armenian, which may be based directly on the Syriac), are based, has been reconstructed by Hilgenfeld in his *Messias Judæorum* (pp. 36-113).

We cannot here give in detail the arguments which make the existence of a Hebrew original highly probable, if not practically certain. The scholars who accept the hypothesis include Wellhausen, Charles, Gunkel, and Violet. A Greek original has been upheld by some distinguished scholars of an earlier date, notably Lücke, Volkmar, and Hilgenfeld. The question is fully discussed in the General Introduction to *E.A.*.

SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK

The Ezra-Apocalypse is of many-sided importance. It is a genuine product of Judaism, but of a

Judaism that belonged to an earlier type than that represented in the Rabbinical Literature, as it has come down to us. In particular the Salathiel portions of the Book (contained in chapters iii.-x.) are of surpassing interest for the student of the New Testament. They betray an almost Pauline sense of the universality and devastating effects of sin (cf. esp. iv. 30, vii. 118), and manifest a pathetic longing for some efficacious means of salvation (viii. 6). While he values the Law, and the works of the Law, and even holds that some few, though not sinless, may yet secure a sufficiency of merit through works and faith to gain salvation, our Apocalypticist is yet acutely conscious of the impotence of the Law as a redeeming power (ix. 36; cf. Rom. iii. 20). He discusses with profound emotion the problem of Israel's relation to the Law, and shows unmistakably that the orthodox answer fails to satisfy him. This answer may be summed up as follows: (a) God's ways are inscrutable (iv. 7-11; cf. v. 35 f.); (b) human intelligence is finite and limited (cf. iv. 12-32); (c) the course and duration of the present world have been pre-determined (iv. 33-43); the decisive moment will soon arrive (iv. 44-50).

All difficulties will be solved by the coming in of the future Age, which will bring in an entirely new order. The present corruptible world will be dissolved, and give place to the incorruptible world and immortality (cf. vii. 114).

One fundamental difficulty to the Apocalypticist is the fewness of those who are destined to attain salvation, and the only answer the angel is able to give him is that the few are precious, and the many worthless. This provokes the protest that it would have been better if man had not been created (vii. 62-69), or at least restrained from sinning (vii. 116-126). Against the inevitable conclusion of pure legalism the seer confidently appeals to the divine compassion (vii. 132-140).

It will have become apparent how much akin the

thought of our Apocalypticist is to that of St. Paul. The same themes are discussed—the relation of Israel to the Law, faith and works, the divine *parousia*, grace, sin and the effects of Adam's sin, the benefit or otherwise of surviving to the *parousia*. Mr. C. W. Emmet in an article on *The Fourth Book of Esdras and St. Paul*¹ has worked out, in an illuminating way, the parallelism in thought between the two writers. He says—

“We have seen how 4 Esdras rests finally on the inscrutability of God's ways, based on His unchallengeable power as Creator, and on His fatherly love for His creation. These are precisely the two answers which are combined in Romans. In ch. ix. St. Paul makes his well-known appeal to the absolute authority of God as Creator—*Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?*—using the same familiar metaphor of the potter and the clay. The peroration of the section in xi. 33 ff. emphasizes the same principle: *How unsearchable are His judgements, and His ways past finding out. For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor?* On the other hand, in ch. viii., in dealing with the problem of the sufferings of this present time and the final deliverance of creation, he has asserted the love of God in Christ as the ground of hope and the pledge of the ultimate solution (viii. 28 ff.; cf. v. 5). The main difference is that he has the historical manifestation of that love to which he can point in vindication of his argument. The fact that both writers place these two principles side by side, and that neither explicitly combines them, is certainly worth notice.”

Mr. Emmet also calls attention to further important parallels. Both emphasize the contrast between Jacob

¹ Published in the *Expository Times* for September 1916 (pp. 551-556).

and Esau, with the same quotation from Malachi (4 Ezra iii. 16; Rom. ix. 13); cf. also 4 Ezra vii. 72 and Rom. ii. 1-16; 4 Ezra vii. 73 f. and Rom. ii. 3 f., 4 Ezra v. 41 and 1 Thess. iv. 13. All this points to a common background of thought, and shows that St. Paul was not so isolated in his Jewish antecedents as is often supposed. As Mr. Emmet well says—

“The author of the Salathiel Apocalypse is our best representative of the kind of Jewish thought with which St. Paul must have been in sympathy in his pre-Christian days. Had he not become a Christian, he might have written just such another book as 4 Esdras, while our unknown author would have surely been a strong ‘Paulinist,’ had he been able to adopt the Christian solution of the problems he faced so bravely.”

The other elements in the Ezra-Apocalypse are also of high importance. The Eagle-Vision represents well the political eschatology that was accepted in Zealot circles; while the Son of Man Vision (ch. xiii.) is valuable as a presentation of the Apocalyptic view of the Heavenly Messiah, the Son of Man. For its relation to Daniel and to the Similitudes of the Book of Enoch reference must be made to full discussions elsewhere (see e. g. *E.A.*, pp. 280 ff.).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

For a full account of the literature bearing on the subject, reference must be made to larger works. Constant reference has been made in the notes that follow to the writer’s edition of the Book: *THE EZRA-APOCALYPSE; translated from a critically revised text, with critical introductions, notes and explanations; with a General Introduction to the Apocalypse, and an*

Appendix containing the Latin text, by G. H. Box (London, 1912).¹

An important edition of the Latin text has been published in the Cambridge series of *Texts and Studies* (vol. iii. no. 2, 1895): *The Fourth Book of Ezra*; the Latin Version edited from the MSS., by the late R. L. Bensly, M.A., and Dr. Montague Rhodes James. The most recent critical edition is that of Dr. Bruno Violet, *Die Esra-Apocalypse*, Part I (Leipzig, 1910); it contains not only a critical edition of the Latin text, but also carefully edited German translations of the Oriental Versions.

Another important book is Hilgenfeld's *Messias Judæorum* (1869), which contains the Latin text, Latin translations of the Oriental Versions, and a reconstruction of the lost Greek text.

The Syriac text from which the translation that follows has been made directly, was published by Ceriani in his *Monumenta Sacra et Profana*, tom. v. pp. 44-111.

Of other works important for the study of the Book, the following are among the most valuable and accessible—

The Variorum Apocrypha, edited by C. J. Ball (gives A.V. with critical notes).

The monumental edition of the *Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha* (in English translations, with commentaries), edited by Dr. R. H. Charles in 2 vols. (Oxford, 1913).

F. C. Porter, *The Messages of the Apocalyptic Writers* (London, 1909).

Dr. R. H. Charles, *A Critical History of the Doctrine of a Future Life* (London, 1899).

Dr. James Drummond, *The Jewish Messiah* (London, 1877).

Dr. W. O. E. Oesterley, *Books of the Apocrypha* (London, 1914).

¹ The same writer has also edited the Book in the second volume of Dr. R. H. Charles' *Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha* (Oxford, 1913).

Reference may also be made to—

The Religion and Worship of the Synagogue, by W. O. E. Oesterley and G. H. Box (2nd ed., London, 1911); and to the articles “Messiah” and “Eschatology” in *The Jewish Encyclopædia* and the Bible Dictionaries.

SHORT TITLES, ABBREVIATIONS AND SIGNS EMPLOYED

1 Enoch = the Ethiopic Book of Enoch.

2 Enoch = the Slavonic Book of Enoch.

Ap. Bar. = The Syriac Apocalypse of Baruch.

Ps. Sol. = The Psalms of Solomon.

L. = the Latin version.

E.A. = *The Ezra-Apocalypse* ed. by G. H. Box.

() round brackets enclose something added (in the translation) but not represented in the Syriac text.

[] square brackets enclose something represented in the Syriac, but absent from L. or the other Versions.

† † translations based upon an emendation in the Syriac text are so indicated.

THE BOOK OF EZRA THE SCRIBE, WHO IS CALLED SALATHIEL¹

VISION I (III. 1—V. 19).²

Introduction (III. 1—3).

III. 1. In the thirtieth³ year of the fall of our city I, Salathiel, who am Ezra, was in Babylon, and lay stretched upon my bed and was troubled, and thoughts were coming up upon my heart,⁴ 2. because I saw the desolation of Sion and the wealth of the dwellings⁵ of Babylon; 3. and my spirit was sore amazed, and I began to speak to the Most High words of fear.

The First Questions: Whence the Sin and Misery of the World? Is Israel's Punishment just? (III. 4—36)

4. And I said: O Lord my Lord,⁶ didst not thou speak from the beginning,⁷ when thou formedst the

¹ This is the title of the Book in the Syriac MS.

² The numeration of chapter and verse follows the Latin (so E.V. 2 Esdras).

³ *i. e.* primarily the 30th year after 586 B.C. (= 556 B.C.); but typically the 30th year after A.D. 70 (= A.D. 100).

⁴ *Thoughts . . . heart*, cf. Dan. ii. 29; iv. 5.

⁵ L. and other Versions, *dwellers*.

⁶ L. *O dominator Domine* (R.V. *O Lord that bearest rule*)
= Heb. 'ādōnai Yahwe.

⁷ = ἀπ' ἀρχῆς; cf. Gen. ii. 7 f.

earth—and that thyself alone—and didst command the dust? 5. And it gave thee Adam, a dead body,¹ and he was the formation of thy hands; and thou didst breathe in him the breath of life and he was living before thee; 6. and thou leddest him into Paradise which thy right hand did plant before ever the earth came.² 7. And to this one thou didst give the commandment,³ and he transgressed it; and forthwith thou didst decree upon him death, and upon his generations. And from him were born peoples and tribes and tongues and clans which are without number. 8. And all peoples followed⁴ their (own) works, and dealt wickedly and were ungodly before thee—and thou didst not hinder them. 9. But again in (due) time⁵ thou didst bring the Flood upon the earth and upon the inhabitants of the world, and thou didst destroy them; 10. and their destruction was alike,⁶ and as to Adam (came) death, so to them (came) the death of the Flood. 11. Nevertheless thou didst spare one of them⁷ with his household—and from him all the righteous are descended.⁸ 12. And it came to pass when the inhabitants of the earth began to multiply, and multiplied⁹ children and peoples and many multitudes, and began again to be ungodly more than the former (generations)¹⁰— 13. it came to pass that when they practised ungodliness before thee, thou didst choose

¹ R.V. *a body without a soul*.

² *i. e.* Paradise (= the Garden of Eden) was created before the earth; but according to another view (*Jubilees* ii. 7) on the third day. See *E.A.*, pp. 195 ff.

³ Lit. *didst command the commandment*.

⁴ Lit. *walked in* (for phrase *walked . . . works* cf. *Ap. Bar.* xlvi. 38).

⁵ Lit. *in the time*, *i. e.* appointed; cf. iv. 37.

⁶ *Alike*, Lit. *together* = Heb. *bē'ahāth* or *ke'ēhād* (cf. *Jer.* x. 8). They were involved in a common fate (L. *in uno*).

⁷ L. + *Noah* (*Noe*).

⁸ Lit. *have flowed*.

⁹ L. *there were born*.

¹⁰ Cf. *Ps. Sol.* i. 8 (*their transgressions were greater than those of the heathen before them*).

one of them for thyself,¹ whose name was Abraham; 14. and thou didst love him, and thou didst shew him the consummation of the times, him alone, between thee and him by night²; 15. and thou didst establish with him an everlasting covenant,³ and didst promise him that thou wouldest never forsake his seed. 16. And thou gavest him Isaac, and to Isaac thou gavest Jacob and Esau⁴; and thou didst choose thee Jacob for an heritage,⁵ and Esau thou didst hate⁶; and Jacob became a great people.⁷ 17. And when thou didst bring up his seed from Egypt [and didst establish with him an everlasting covenant],⁸ and didst bring them to Mount Sinai,

18. Thou didst incline the heavens,
and didst shake the earth—
and madest the world †quake†,⁹
and causedst the deeps to tremble,
and didst alarm the worlds.¹⁰

19. And thy glory went through the four gates¹¹ of fire and earthquake, and of wind and cold, that thou mightest give to Jacob's seed the Law,¹² and to the race of Israel commandments. 20. And yet thou didst not remove from them the evil heart,¹³ that thy Law might yield fruit¹⁴ in them. 21. For the first Adam clothed himself with the evil heart, and transgressed, and was overcome (and

¹ Cf. Gen. xii. 1.

² Cf. Gen. xv. 9 f.

³ Lit. covenants; cf. Gen. xvii. 7.

⁴ Cf. Josh. xxiv. 3 f.

⁵ Choose . . . heritage; L. *segregasti tibi*.

⁶ Cf. Mal. i. 2 (*Jacob I loved but Esau I hated*).

⁷ Cf. Gen. xxxii. 10 f.

⁸ Accidentally repeated in the Syr. MS. from ver. 15 above.

⁹ Reading (with Violet) *wē'anīdāh* for *wa'hādīāh* (= and thou didst hold).

¹⁰ L. *sæcula*: the universe is meant; cf. Heb. i. 2.

¹¹ The four gates of the four lowest of the seven heavens may be meant; cf. E.A., p. 14.

¹² Cf. Deut. xxxiii. 4.

¹³ L. *cor malignum*: cf. iv. 30 (grain of evil seed) and vii. 92 (the evil thought).

¹⁴ i. e. the fruit of death and condemnation; cf. Rom. vii. 5.

not only so) but also ~~fall~~¹ who were begotten from him. 22. And the infirmity remained in them, and (also) the Law, together with the evil root; then what was good departed, and the evil came.² 23. And the times passed away, and the seasons were ended; and thou didst raise up for thyself a servant whose name was David; 24. and thou commandedst him to build³ a city for thy name⁴ [and a House]⁵ that oblations from thine own might be offered therein.⁶ 25. And this was done many years. But the inhabitants of the city sinned against thee 26. and did nothing new⁷ beyond what Adam had done and all his generations; for they also were clothing themselves with the evil heart. 27. And (so) thou deliveredst thy City into the hand of thine enemies.⁸

28. And then I said in my heart: Are then the inhabitants of Babylon behaving well? And hast thou for this forsaken⁹ Sion? 29. And it came to pass when I came hither¹⁰ I saw many ungodlinesses which cannot be numbered, and many iniquities¹¹ my soul saw this thirty years; and my heart was perturbed, 30. because I have seen

how thou dost suffer the sinners,
and sparest the ungodly,
and hast destroyed thy people,
and preserved thine enemies;

¹ So read: Syriac text *upon*.

² The whole body fell under the dominion of sin; cf. Rom. vii. 7 f. and 20 f.

³ David is regarded as the founder of the Holy City; cf. x. 46.

⁴ *i. e.* the city called by Jahveh's name, the city of God; cf. Jer. xxv. 29; Ps. xlvi. 4, xlviii. 1 f.

⁵ These words are lacking in L.; the addition accords with 2 Sam. vii. 5, 13.

⁶ This is the correct reading. A.V. *incense and oblations* depends upon a corrupt Latin text.

⁷ By a slight alteration of the Syriac text the translation will run *nothing other than [what Adam]*.

■ Cf. x. 23.

⁸ This is the right reading. L. *dominavit* (*hath she dominion over Sion?* R.V.) is probably corrupt for *abominavit*.

¹⁰ *i. e.* to Babylon. ¹¹ The other Versions have *sinners*,

31. and hast not made known unto any¹ how thy way may be comprehended.² Hath Babylon behaved better than Sion? 32. Or knowest thou³ any other people more than Israel? Or what tribe⁴ hath believed thy covenant as Jacob hath— 33. they whose reward is not seen, and whose labour hath not borne fruit! For I have gone about⁵ through the peoples and have seen that they are now prosperous although unmindful of thy commandments.

34. But now weigh thou⁶ in the balance our iniquities and those of the inhabitants of the world, and the poise of the scale will be seen to be not inclined.⁷ 35. Or when have the inhabitants of the world not sinned before thee? Or what people hath so kept thy commandments? 36. Men, however, with names⁸ thou mayest find who have kept thy commandments, but a people⁹ thou shalt not find.

**The Divine Reply ; God's ways are
Inscrutable (IV. 1—V. 19).**

IV. 1. And the angel who had been sent unto me, whose name was Uriel,¹⁰ answered, 2. and said to

¹ L. *nihil nemini* corrupted to *nihil memini* in Vulg. = *I remember nought* (cf. A.V.).

² = *πῶς καταληφθῆ*: L. *derelinqui via hæc* = *how this way of thine should be forsaken*; cf. E.A., p. 18.

³ = *ἔγνως*. The other Versions read *ἔγνω σε* (*Hath any other nation known thee, etc.*).

⁴ L. *tribes*.

⁵ Lit. *passing I have passed*.

⁶ “Weighing” sins is a common metaphor in Jewish literature; cf. 1 Enoch xli. 1 (of weighing deeds).

⁷ Read, with a slight emendation of the Syriac, *which way it inclines* (for to be not inclined); cf. L. *which way the turn of the scale inclines*. The A.V. represents a corrupt Latin text.

⁸ L. *homines per nomina* = *men that can be reckoned by name* (R.V.), i. e. noted individuals.

⁹ So Ethiopic; the other Versions have pl. *nations*.

¹⁰ Uriel is mentioned again in ver. 36 (Latin), v. 20 and x. 28, and not again in the Bible; cf. 1 Enoch xxi. 5, 9, xxvii. 2, xxxiii. 3, 4.

me : Is thy heart so perturbed ¹ in this world, and wouldest thou comprehend the way of the Most High ? 3. And I answered and said : Yea, my Lord. And he answered me again, and said to me : Three ways have I been sent to shew thee, and three similitudes to set before thee : 4. if thou canst shew me one of these, I also will shew thee the way which thou longest to see, and I will teach thee why ³ the evil heart (exists). 5. And I answered and said : Speak on, my Lord. And he answered and said to me :

Come, weigh me the weight of the fire,
or measure the measure ⁴ of the wind,⁵
or recall me the day that is past.

6. And I said to him : Who of those born is able to do these (things) that thou hast spoken to me, that thou shouldest ask me about all these ?

7. And he said to me : Had I asked thee [and said to thee] ⁶

How many chambers⁷ are in the heart of the sea⁸?
Or how many springs are in the sources⁹ of the deep?

Or how many ways are above the firmament ?
Or what are the outlets of Sheol ?

Or what are the paths of Paradise ¹⁰ ?

8. Thou wouldest have said to me :

Into the deep I have not descended,
Nor to Sheol as yet have I descended ;
Neither to heaven have I ever ascended.^{11 12}

¹ Or *disquieted*.

² *i. e.* regarding (in matters pertaining to); cf. John iii. 12.

³ A variant reading in L. = *whence comes* (but cf. R.V.).

⁴ This is the right reading. L. has *flatum* = *blast* (probably a corruption of *satum*).

⁵ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* lix. 5 (for the whole verse). ⁶ Added by Syriac.

⁷ Lit. *treasures*; other Versions *habitations*.

⁸ Cf. xiii. 3, 25, 51 (and *Exod.* xv. 8).

⁹ Lit. *head*, Heb. *rōsh* (= *beginning*, e. g. *Lam.* iii. 19); R.V. *fountain head*.

¹⁰ *i. e.* the heavenly Paradise (the paths leading to).

¹¹ Cf. *Deut.* xxx. 12 f.; *Ps.* cxxxix. 8; *Rom.* x. 6 f.; *Baruch* iii. 29, 39.

¹² The Armenian and Ethiopic add another clause *nor entered (ascended into) Paradise*, but L. omits.

9. But now I have not asked thee concerning these, but concerning the fire, and the wind and the day—things through which thou hast passed¹ and without which thou canst not be²; and thou hast said to me nothing concerning them.

10. And he said to me: Thou art incapable of understanding³ the things that grow up with thee⁴; 11. how, then, can thy vessel⁵ comprehend the way of the Most High? For the way of the Most High hath been created incomprehensible,⁶ nor is it possible that one who is corruptible in a corruptible world should know the way of him who is incorruptible.

The Dialogue continued; the Limitations of Mortality are Inexorable, and Protests are Useless (IV. 12-21).

12. And when I heard these things I fell upon my face⁷ and said to him: It would have been better for us if we had not come⁸ than,⁹ having come, that we should live in sin and suffer, and not know why we suffer.

13. And he answered and said to me: Once there went¹⁰ the woods of the trees of the plain, and deliber-

¹ Reading *passed* by a slight emendation (altering a point) = “which you have experienced”; Ethiopic takes the clause closely with *day* (*day that is past*); cf. ver. 5.

² For the thought; cf. Wisd. ix. 16.

³ L. + *thine own things*.

⁴ *i. e.* the things that have intermingled with thy growth (man was supposed to be compounded of fire, wind, earth and water).

⁵ *i. e.* the body as the vehicle of the soul or understanding.

⁶ Lit. *in what is not comprehended* (the use of *in* here is a Hebraism).

⁷ L. of these opening words is mutilated and corrupt (cf. A.V.).

⁸ *sc.* into life (cf. Matt. xviii. 8) or “into the world”

(= be born); cf. John i. 9.

⁹ Lit. *or*, a rendering of the Greek comparative *ἢ*.

¹⁰ Lit. *going they went* (a Hebraism); L. reads *I went forth into a wood* (cf. A.V.).

ated together¹ and said : 14. Come, let us go (and) make war with the sea that it may recede before us, and we will make us more woods.² 15. The waves of the sea likewise deliberated together,¹ and said : Come let us go up (and) wage war with the wood of the plain in order that there we make us another place. 16. And the deliberation of the wood was in vain, for the fire came and consumed it ; 17. and likewise also the deliberation of the waves of the sea, for the sand stood up and stopped them.³ 18. If then thou hadst been judge of these, which of them wouldest thou have acquitted, and which of them wouldest thou have condemned ? 19. And I answered and said : Both of them have deliberated a vain deliberation ; for the land hath been given to the wood, and the place of the sea to bear its waves.

20. And he answered and said to me : Thou hast judged well ! And why hast thou not judged thine own self ? 21. For as the land hath been given to the wood, and the place of the sea to bear its waves ;⁴ so also those who dwell upon the earth are able to understand only what is upon the earth, and he who⁵ is above heaven what is above heaven.

**The Dialogue continued ; the Seer's Protests
are answered by the Assurance that the
New Age will solve all Difficulties (IV. 22-32).**

22. And I answered and said : I pray thee,⁶ my Lord,⁷ wherefore, O my Lord, hath understanding been given me for thought ? 23. For I have not

¹ Lit. *deliberated a deliberation.*

² Or sing. *another wood.*

³ Cf. Jer. v. 22.

⁴ L. *and the sea to its waves.*

⁵ He who (sing.); Arabic² and Armenian understand plural *they who* ; L. is ambiguous (*qui super cœlos*).

⁶ Cf. ix. 44, x. 37.

⁷ This title is often used in address to the angel (iv. 41, v. 34 f., etc.).

desired to ask about the way¹ of what is above, but about those things which pass over us daily:

for² Israel is given up to the peoples,³

and the people thou hast loved⁴ is given up to godless tribes;

and the holy Law of our fathers is set at nought,⁵
and the written covenants⁶ are no more;

24. and we pass from the world as locusts,⁷
and ~~our~~ life⁸ is as a breath.

We indeed⁹ are not worthy that mercies should come¹⁰ upon us; 25. but what will he do for his great name which is called upon us?¹¹ About these things I have asked.

The Answer

26. And he answered and said to me: If thou shalt be¹² thou shalt see, and if thou live long thou shalt marvel; because the world is hastening fast to pass away,¹³ 27. for it endureth not to bear what hath been promised¹⁴ to the righteous, because this world is full of sighing and many infirmities.¹⁵

28. For the evil concerning which thou didst ask

¹ L. *ways*.

² L. *wherefore?* (= διὰ τί; *for* = διότι).

³ L. + *in obprobrium* (= *for reproach*) or (based on another reading) *in proprium* (= *for a possession*).

⁴ Cf. Hos. xi. 1; Jer. xxxi. 3; Rom. xi. 28 and *Ap. Bar.* v. 1.

⁵ Or *destroyed* (cf. xiv. 21 f.).

⁶ A synonym for the Law; cf. Rom. ix. 4.

⁷ A figure of swiftness; cf. Nah. iii. 17

⁸ Text has *we live*: emend to *our life*.

⁹ Lit. *also*.

¹⁰ Lit. *should be*; L. *to obtain mercy*.

¹¹ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* v. 1. The expression implies ownership; cf. Is. xlivi. 7, lxiii. 19; 2 Chron. vii. 14, and Ps. Sol. ix. 18 (*And thou didst set thy name upon us, O Lord*).

¹² sc. alive; so L. (*si fueris*); but Ethiop. *if thou remain* (*survive*) = ἔσται μένεις (read by L. and Syr. ἔσται μένεις).

¹³ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xx. 1.

¹⁴ L. + *in their season* (*in temporibus*).

¹⁵ Cf. 1 John v. 19.

me is sown, and its harvest ¹ is not yet come. 29. Unless, therefore, that which is sown be reaped, and the place be removed where the evil is sown, the land where the good is sown ² cometh not. 30. Because that one grain of seed of evil ³ was sown in the heart of Adam from the beginning, and how much fruit ⁴ of ungodliness hath it begotten until now, and shall yet beget until the harvest ¹ come !

31. Do thou now reckon up in thine own mind ⁵ and see how much fruit of ungodliness one grain of seed of evil that was sown hath produced ⁶; 32. when, therefore, the ears of the good shall be sown, ⁷ which are numberless, what a harvest are they destined ⁸ to produce !

The Dialogue continued ; When shall these Things be ? When the Predestined Conditions are Fulfilled (IV. 33-43)

33. And I answered and said : How long and when ⁹ (shall) these things (be) ¹⁰? For few and evil are our years.

34. And he answered and said to me : Thou mayest not hasten more than the Most High ; for thou art hastening for thine own self, but the Most High for (the sake of) many. ¹¹

35. For did not the souls of the righteous ask

¹ Or *its threshing out* (the word can mean this); cf. L. *destructio ejus* = *the plucking off of it* (corrupted to *destructio*, see A.V.); cf. for the whole idea the parable of the Sower, Matt. xiii.

² i. e. the new age. ³ Cf. iii. 20. ⁴ L. omits *fruit*.

⁵ Lit. compare (estimate) in thine own self (L. *estima autem apud te*).

⁶ Lit. *made*.

⁷ i. e. immediately after the dissolution of the present evil age.

⁸ = Greek *μέλλοντα*.

⁹ Lit. *until when and when* ; L. *usquequo et quando*.

¹⁰ Come to pass ; *these things* = these promised good things.

¹¹ Cf. v. 33.

concerning these things in their chambers,¹ and say : How long shall we be here ? And when (cometh) the harvest² of our reward ? 36. And the angel Remiel³ answered and said to them : Until the number of those like you be fulfilled !⁴ For

the Holy One hath weighed⁵ the world,⁶

37. and with measure hath he measured the times,
and by number hath he numbered the seasons,⁷
neither will he rest⁸ nor stir,
till the number appointed be fulfilled.⁹

38. And I answered and said : O Lord my Lord,¹⁰
but †behold†,¹¹ we are all full of ungodliness ! 39. Is
it perchance on our account that the reward of the
righteous is withheld, (on account of)¹² the sins of the
inhabitants of the earth ?

40. And he answered and said to me : Go and
ask (the woman) who is pregnant if, when she com-
pleteth her nine months, the womb can still hold
the birth within her ?

41. And I said : It cannot, my Lord.

And he answered and said to me : Sheol¹³ and the

¹ Lit. *treasuries*, i. e. "treasuries of souls" (cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxi. 23), containing the righteous dead; cf. vii. 32, 80, 95; *Ap. Bar.* xxx. 2.

² L. *floor* (threshing-floor).

³ i. e. the archangel Jeremiel who had charge of the souls of the righteous dead; cf. i Enoch xx.; see *E.A.*, p. 34 f.

⁴ Cf. *Rev.* vi. 11.

⁵ Lit. *weighing hath weighed*. ⁶ Or *age*.

⁷ The underlying idea is predestinarian; cf. *Wisd.* xi. 20; i Enoch xlvii. 3.

⁸ = ? *σιγήσει* a corruption of *σείσει*; L. has *move* (*excita-
bit*).

⁹ Cf. "That it may please thee shortly to accomplish the number of thine elect and to hasten thy kingdom."

¹⁰ Here and in v. 38, vi. 11, vii. 17, 58, 75 used in address to the angel; it is strictly only appropriate to God, and is elsewhere only so used (so always in *Ap. Bar.*); cf. iii. 4 (note) and *E.A.*, p. 36.

¹¹ So read; Syr. text *this*

¹² A word has probably fallen out of the Syriac here (add *mētūl*).

¹³ *Sheol and the chambers of souls*, so *Ethiop.*; but L. = *the chambers of souls in the underworld (Sheol)*. See *E.A.*, p. 37.

chambers of souls are like the womb : 42. for she who is giving birth maketh haste to escape from the anguish of her giving birth, so also do these hasten to give up what hath been put in them 43. from the beginning. And then shall be revealed to thee concerning the things thou longest to see.

The Dialogue continued ; How the End will come (IV. 44-50)

44. And I answered and said : If I have found favour in thy sight, and if it be possible and I am worthy, 45. shew me this also, whether the time that hath passed by us be more than that which is to come ? 46. Because the time that is past I know,¹ but what is future I know not.

47. And he answered and said to me : Stand on the right side,² and I will shew thee the meaning of the similitude.

48. And I stood and saw, and behold ! there passed before me a blazing fiery furnace ;³ and it happened that when the flame had passed by I saw, and behold ! the smoke remained. 49. And after this there passed before me a cloud filled with water, and poured down a very violent rain, and when the violence of the rain had passed, there remained in it⁴ drops (still).

50. And he answered and said to me : Consider in thyself and see,⁵ that as the rain exceedeth the drops, and the fire the smoke, so the measure that is passed is excessive⁶ ; but there remain the drops and the smoke.

¹ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxiv. 3.

² ? On the right side of the angel (*i. e.* the speaker) ; cf. *E.A.*, p. 39.

³ Cf. *Gen.* xv. 17 (seen in a vision as here).

⁴ *i. e.* in the cloud.

⁵ Cf. ver. 31 ; L. *consider for thyself* (*cogita tibi*).

⁶ L. *superhabundavit*.

The Signs which Precede the End (IV. 51—
V. 13)

51. And I besought¹ him and said : Shall I then live² until those days, or who³ shall be in those days?

52. And he answered and said to me : Concerning the signs⁴ about which thou didst ask me, I can speak to thee of them in part,⁵ but concerning thy life I have not been sent to speak to thee, for indeed I have no knowledge.

V. 1. Concerning the signs, however :

Behold the days come⁶ when the inhabitants of the world shall be seized with great panic, and the portion⁷ of truth shall be hidden, and the land of faith shall be unfruitful.⁸

2. And iniquity [and shamelessness]⁹ shall be increased¹⁰ above this which thou seest now, and above that which thou hast heard of long ago. 3. And this land¹¹ shall be without stability and untrodden¹² which thou hast seen now to be bearing rule, and they shall see this land laid waste. 4. But if the Most High grant thee \dagger life \ddagger ¹³ thou shalt see that (land) after the third (day)¹⁴ in confusion :

¹ Or *asked*.

² L. *thinkest thou that I shall live* (so Ar.¹).

³ So L. (best MSS.), reading *quis* ; but Ethiop. and Ar. *what* ; so Vulg.

⁴ Cf. Mark xiii. 4 and following verses.

⁵ *Of them in part*, lit. *some of them* ; the rest are described in vi. 11—28.

⁶ A phrase borrowed from the prophets ; cf. for its use here *Ap. Bar.* xxxix. 2, lxx. 2.

⁷ Ethiop. *region* ; L. *way* : cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxxix. 6.

⁸ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* lix. 10 ; Luke xviii. 8.

⁹ So Syr. ; L. omits ; cf. ver. 10.

¹⁰ Cf. Matt. xxiv. 12. ¹¹ i. e. the Roman Empire.

¹² i. e. disordered and pathless ; cf. Job xii. 24.

¹³ So read by a slight emendation ; Syr. text *vision*.

¹⁴ = μ ετ α τρίτην (sc. η μέραν), i. e. probably towards the end of the last period of $3\frac{1}{2}$ days, after which Rome's oppression will cease ; cf. *E.A.*, p. 43 ; A.V. *after the third trumpet is corrupt* (*tubam* for *turbatam*).

1. And suddenly shall the sun appear by night,
and the moon by day;¹

5. and the wood shall distil blood,²
and the stone utter its voice;³
and the peoples shall be in commotion,
and the air⁴ shall be changed;

6. and one⁵ whom the many do not set their hopes
on shall rule, and the birds shall migrate.⁶

7. And the sea of Sodom shall produce many
fish⁷; and one shall utter his voice by night whom
the many know not,⁸ and all shall hear it; 8. and
fissures⁹ shall be produced in many places, and fire¹⁰
shall be emitted continually; and the desert-beasts
shall migrate from their places; and signs from
women shall appear, for births shall be born without
being completed¹¹; 9. and in sweet waters salt shall
be found; and friends shall suddenly wage war on
their friends.¹²

10. And then shall wisdom hide herself,¹³
and understanding withdraw to her chambers¹⁴—
(and she shall be sought)¹⁵ by many and not
found;

¹ One of the wonders worked by Antichrist; cf. *Asc. Is.* iv. 5.

² L. *blood shall trickle forth from wood*; cf. *Ep. Barn.* xii. 1.

³ Cf. *Hab.* ii. 11; *Luke* xix. 40.

⁴ Lit. *airs* (= *ἀέρες* ? corrupt for *ἀστέρες*); for original
reading cf. *E.A.*, p. 44.

⁵ i. e. Antichrist.

⁶ Birds were supposed to possess supernatural knowledge
of coming events.

⁷ The bitter waters of the Dead Sea, in which no fish can
live, shall be sweetened and produce fish; cf. *Ezek.* xlvi. 8 f.

⁸ A mysterious voice shall be heard; cf. *Josephus, War.*
VI. 5. 3; L. attaches to previous clause *and* [the sea] *shall
make a noise*, etc.

⁹ = *χάσματα*; cf. *Zech.* xiv. 4.

¹⁰ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxvii. 10, *lxx.* 8.

¹¹ *And signs . . . completed*; this seems to be a para-
phrase = L. *and women shall bear monsters*.

¹² Cf. vi. 24. ¹³ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xlvi. 36; *Is.* lix. 14–15.

¹⁴ Lit. *treasuries*: L. sing. *chamber*.

¹⁵ A word has fallen out accidentally in the Syr. = *and
she shall be sought*.

and transgression and shamelessness shall multiply upon the earth.

11. And one place will ask its neighbour,¹ and will say to it : Hath Righteousness perchance passed through² thee, or [a man]³ that practiseth righteousness ? But that place will answer, No.⁴ 12. And it shall be in that time men shall hope and not obtain, [and shall labour and not find,]⁵

and shall toil and their way shall not be made sure.

13. These signs I have been commanded to tell thee ; but if thou wilt pray again and †weep†⁶ as now, and fast seven days,⁷ thou shalt hear greater things than these.

The Conclusion of the Vision (V. 14-19)

14. And I awoke,⁸ and my body trembled greatly, and my soul was weary as though it would expire.⁹

15. But the angel who spake with¹⁰ me took hold of me and strengthened me and set me up upon my feet.

16. And it came to pass in the second night there came to me †Phaltiel†¹¹ the head of the people, and said to me : Where hast thou been, and why is thy countenance sad¹²? 17. Or dost thou not know that thou hast been entrusted with¹³ Israel in the place

¹ Lit. *what is nigh to it.* ² Or *by.* ³ L. omits *a man.*

⁴ Lit. *will deny* ; cf. Amos vi. 10. ⁵ Omitted by L.

⁶ So read (by a slight emendation) ; Syr. text has *supplicate*.

⁷ This was the regular preparation for the reception of the divine revelation ; four such are referred to in this Book ; cf. v. 20, vi. 35, ix. 26, 27, xii. 51.

⁸ sc. from sleep ; the previous vision was a dream-vision.

⁹ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxi. 26.

¹⁰ Lit. *in or through* ; cf. Zech. ii. 3.

¹¹ The historical reference is uncertain ; for the name cf. 2 Sam. iii. 15. Syr. text *Psaltiel*.

¹² Sad from fasting ; cf. Matt. vi. 16.

¹³ Lit. *over* : the seer is the last of the prophets left to the exiles in Babylon ; cf. xii. 42.

of their captivity? 18. Stand up, then, and eat a little bread so that thou do not leave us as (doth) a shepherd his flock in the hand of destructive wolves !¹ 19. And I said to him : Depart from me and come not nigh unto me until seven days ; and then thou mayest come unto me and I will explain matters to thee. And when I had spoken to him he departed from me.

¹ For the image cf. Matt. x. 16.

VISION II

(V. 20—VI. 34)

THE PRAYER OF EZRA¹

Introduction (V. 20-22)

20. And I fasted seven days, sighing and weeping, even as Ramiel² the angel commanded me. 21. And it came to pass after seven days the thoughts of my heart were again oppressing me³ greatly. 22. And my soul received the spirit of intelligence, and I began again to speak before the Most High these words of supplication and entreaty:

The Prayer and its Answer (V. 23-40)

23. And I answered and said: O Lord my Lord, from all the woods of the earth and the trees thereof thou hast chosen thee one vine⁴; 24. and from all the lands of the world thou hast chosen thee one place⁵; 25. and from all the deeps of the sea thou hast enlarged for thyself one stream,⁶ and from all the

¹ This title is prefixed to the following section in the Syriac text.

² Cf. iv. 36; the other Versions rightly read here *Uriel*.

³ Cf. iii. 1.

⁴ The figures illustrating Israel's choice have been drawn from the O.T. For the vine cf. Is. v. 7; Ps. lxxx. 9; vers. 23-27 read like an old Midrash; cf. Midrash rab. on Cant. ii. 1 and *Pirke R. Eliezer*, ch. xix.

⁵ i. e. the Holy Land: L. *pit* (for the vine).

⁶ i. e. the Jordan.

flowers of the world thou hast chosen thee one flower¹; and from all the cities that have been built thou hast sanctified Sion unto thyself²; 26. and from all birds that have been created thou hast named for thyself one dove³; and from all cattle that have been created thou hast selected one sheep⁴; 27. and from the multitude of the peoples thou hast brought nigh to thyself⁵ one people; and the Law which was approved from among all⁶ thou hast given to the people whom thou hast loved.

28. And now, O Lord, why hast thou delivered up one unto many, and hast dishonoured the one root⁷ above the many, and hast scattered and dispersed thine only one among the many? 29. And those who resist thy commandments have trodden under foot them that have believed thy covenant. 30. And if thou didst hate thy people so much,⁸ the obligation was that they should be punished with thine own hands.⁹

31. And after I had spoken these words, the angel was sent unto me, that had been sent unto me in the night that was past,¹⁰ 32. and said to me :

Hear me, and I will inform thee, [Ezra];¹¹
look at me, and I will set words before thee.

33. And I answered and said to him: Speak on, my Lord. And he said to me: Art thou perturbed

¹ L. *one lily* = Israel; cf. Cant. ii. 2.

² Cf. Ps. cxxxii. 13.

³ = Israel; cf. Ps. lxxiv. 19; Cant. ii. 14.

⁴ Cf. Ps. lxxix. 13.

⁵ i. e. appropriated.

⁶ i. e. out of all laws the Mosaic was the best; cf. Deut. iv. 8.

⁷ Cf. 1 Enoch xciii. 8 (*race of the Elect root*); Rom. xi. 17 f.

⁸ *Didst hate . . . so much*; Lit. *hating didst hate*.

⁹ i. e. by famine, pestilence, or earthquake, but not by foreign foes (cf. 2 Sam. xxiv. 13); cf. also Ps. Sol. vii. 3; Ecclus. ii. 18.

¹⁰ i. e. not the night immediately past; some days had elapsed (cf. v. 20).

¹¹ Omitted in the other Versions.

on account of Israel? Or lovest thou him more than he that made him? ¹

34. And I said: No, my Lord! But I am in sore pain,² and spoke because my reins scourge me³ every hour; ⁴ because I seek to comprehend the decree of judgement of the Most High, and I would search out something of his judgement.⁴

35. And he said to me: Thou canst not. And I said to him: Why, my Lord, [†]am I not able? ⁵ Or why was I born, and why did not my mother's womb become my grave,

that I might not see Jacob's travail,
and the toil of Israel's seed? ⁶

36. And he answered and said to me:

Number me those who are not yet come,⁷
and gather me the drops⁸ that are scattered,
and make bloom for me the flowers that are withered;⁹

37. And open me the chambers¹⁰ that are closed,
and bring me forth the winds¹¹ held captive in them;

and shew me the likeness of persons whom thou hast never seen,

or shew me the likeness of a voice;

and then I will inform thee concerning the travail¹² [and the time]¹³ that thou askest to see.

¹ Cf. viii. 47. ² Lit. *being in pain I am in pain*.

³ Cf. Ps. lxxiii. 21 (the reins or kidneys seat of strong emotion).

⁴ For *decree of judgement* L. has *way*, and for *something of his judgement* L. has *partem judicii*. Syriac here seems to have a doublet; see *E.A.*, p. 56.

⁵ So read, by a slight emendation; Syr. text should *I not pray*.

⁶ Quoted by Clement of Alex., *Stromateis*, iii. 16.

⁷ i. e. the unborn, so L.; Ethiop. and Ar. *the days that are not yet come*.

⁸ i. e. the rain-drops; cf. iv. 50.

⁹ Cf. Ezek. xvii. 24. ¹⁰ Lit. *treasuries*.

¹¹ Or *spirits* (the same Heb. word = both *wind* and *spirit*), i. e. the spirits of the righteous dead; cf. iv. 35: for the chambers of the winds cf. 1 Enoch xli. 4; Rev. vii. 1.

¹² i. e.? the painful problem. ¹³ Added by the Syriac.

38. And I said : O Lord, my Lord, who is there who could know these (things) except him who dwelleth not with men ? 39. I, however, am foolish and weak ; how should I be able to speak concerning these things which thou hast asked me ?

40. And he said to me : Just as thou art unable to do one of the things that have been mentioned,¹ so thou art unable to find out my judgement or the end of the love which I have promised ² to my people.

The Succession of Generations and the Divine Plan of the World (V. 41-55)

God's Judgement reaches all alike

41. And I said : But, my Lord, behold thou hast made the promise ³ to those who are in the End ; but what shall they do who were before us, or we (ourselves), or those who follow us ? ⁴

42. And he answered and said to me : I have made my judgement like a crown ⁵ ; just as there is no posterity for the last, so also there is no priority for the first. ⁶

43. And I answered and said : Couldest thou not then, perhaps have made those who have been and those who are and those who shall be all at once, that thou mightest make known thy judgement quickly ?

44. And he answered and said to me : The creation hasteneth not faster than its Creator ; otherwise, indeed, the world could not endure those created in it all at once.

45. And I again answered and said : And how (is it) thou hast (just now) said ⁷ to thy servant that thou wilt verily revive thy creation, which hath been

¹ Lit. said.

² Or professed.

³ Lit. thou hast promised.

⁴ For the problem propounded cf. 1 Thess. iv. 13 f.

⁵ So L. ; Ethiop. (Ar.¹) like a ring.

⁶ God's judgement will reach all, those who lived in former ages, and those living in the latest period, at the same time ; cf. *Ap. Bar.* ii. 13.

⁷ Viz. in ver. 42.

created by thee, all at once¹? If, then, they shall indeed revive all at once, and the creation endure (it), it might even now endure them being (present) all at once.

46. And he answered and said to me : Ask the womb of a woman, and say unto it²: If thou bearest ten (children) why dost thou bear them at different times³? Demand, therefore, from it² that it² produce its ten at once.⁴

47. And I said : It cannot, my Lord, except at (different) times.³

48. And he said to me : I also have made the earth the womb of those who come upon it at (different) times.³ 49. For just as the child doth not bear, (nor) she that is aged any more, so also have I ordered the world that I have created.⁵

The Earth is grown Old and its Offspring Degenerate

50. And I asked him and said : Now⁶ that thou hast given me the way,⁷ I would speak before thee. Our mother [Sion],⁸ of whom thou hast spoken to me, is she really, [my Lord],⁸ still young, or already approaching old age?⁹

51. And he answered and said to me : Ask (a woman) that beareth, and let her tell thee ; 52. say to her : Why are those whom thou bearest now (not)¹⁰ like

¹ i. e. at the last Judgement.

² i. e. the womb, or *unto her* (the woman), and so throughout the passage.

³ Lit. *at time and time*.

⁴ Lit. *that it produce them in their (whole of) ten*.

⁵ Ethiop. + κατὰ καιρὸν (according to season). The earth in its extreme youth brought forth no human inhabitants; neither will it do so in extreme old age.

⁶ Lit. *from now*.

⁷ i. e. opened up a way, freely given opportunity.

⁸ Added by Syriac; other versions omit. ⁹ Cf. iv. 33 f.

¹⁰ It is necessary to supply the negative particle, which has accidentally fallen out of the Syriac MS.; so the other Versions.

the former ones, but inferior in size¹? And 53. she also shall say to thee: those born in the vigour of youth are of one fashion; and those born in old age, when the womb is diminished, are of another. 54. Do thou also look and see that ye are inferior in size to those who preceded you; 55. they also that come after you shall be inferior to you, because the creation hath already grown old,² and the vigour of her youth is past.

The End mediated by God alone (V. 56—VI. 6)

56. And I answered and said: I beseech thee, my Lord, if I have found favour before thee, tell thy servant by whom³ thou wilt visit thy creation.

VI. 1. And he answered and said to me: The beginning by the hand of man,⁴ but the end by mine own hands.

For [as]⁵ before the land of the world existed, and before the outgoings of the world⁶ were standing,

and before the weights of the winds⁷ blew;

2. and before the voice of the thunders was heard,

and before the lightning-flashes did shine;

and before the land of Paradise was founded,

¹ L. *inferior in stature (minores statu).*

² For the idea cf. xiv. 10, 16; *Ap. Bar.* lxxxv. 10; Ambrose, *de bono mortis*, x.; and see further *E.A.*, p. 63.

³ A variant reading (*Ethiop. Ar.*) is *on account of whom*, perhaps a tendency alteration made to meet Christian objections; see *E.A.*, p. 64.

⁴ Or by the hand of the Son of Man, but where the Son of Man is a proper name in the Gospels the word for son is defined (*bēreh*); here, however, it is not (*bar* alone), and *bar nasha* = man. The text is probably out of order. L. has a lacuna after beginning down to existed. Volkmar restores the missing line thus: *the beginning of the terrestrial world was by me myself. For before the earth and the universe were created [and before the outgoings of the world, etc.]*.

⁵ This is added by Syriac; omit.

⁶ Cf. 1 Enoch xxxiv.

⁷ i.e. the heavy winds; cf. *Ap. Bar.* lix. 5.

3. and before the beauty of the flowers¹ was seen;
- and before the power of the commotions² was strengthened,
- and before the numberless armies of angels were gathered;
4. and before the height of the air³ was uplifted,
- and before the measures⁴ of the firmaments were named⁵;
- and before the footstool of Sion was strengthened,⁶
5. and before the years that are present were sought out;
- and before the follies of present-day⁷ sinners were conceived,
- and before those who have gathered for themselves the treasures of faith were sealed⁸—
6. then (it was) I thought,⁹ and all these things came into being¹⁰ by mine own hand alone and not by the hands of another.¹¹

The Parting Asunder of the Times (VI. 7-10)

7. And I answered and said: What is the dividing asunder of the times? Or when is the end of the first age, or what the beginning of the second? 8. And

¹ i. e. of Paradise. ² i. e. earthquakes. ³ Lit. airs.

⁴ i. e. measured spaces, i. e. divisions into which the heavens were separated.

⁵ The seven heavens have each a special name; cf. *E.A.*, p. 65.

⁶ Or *made firm*, i. e. established, appointed (the A.V. or *ever the chimneys in Sion were hot* rests upon a corrupt text). For God's *footstool* cf. Ps. xcix. 5, cxxxii. 7; Lam. ii. 1, etc.

⁷ Lit. *now*.

⁸ For the "sealing" of the faithful cf. Rev. vii. 4.

⁹ Or *considered*. ¹⁰ Lit. *were*.

¹¹ L. + *as also the end through me alone and none other*: the Oriental Versions omit this clause for dogmatic (Christian) reasons.

he answered and said to me : From Abraham until Abraham.¹ From Abraham [was begotten Isaac, and from Isaac]² (were)³ begotten Jacob and Esau ; and the hand of Jacob was holding Esau's heel.⁴ 9. The heel of the first (is) Esau, and the hand of the second (is) Jacob⁵ ; 10. for the first⁶ of a man is his hand ; and the end of a man is his heel. Thus between heel and hand do thou seek nought else, O Ezra !

The Signs of the Last Time and the End
(VI. 11-28)

11. And I answered and said : O Lord my Lord : If I have found favour in thy sight,⁷ 12. make known to thy servant the end⁸ of the signs, which thou hast made known to me †in part†⁹ in the night that is past.

13. And he answered and said to me : Stand up upon thy feet,¹⁰ and thou shalt hear a loud voice.¹¹ 14. And it shall be that if the place whereon thou standest be greatly shaken,¹² 15. while speech is made with thee, thou shalt not be terrified ; because the speech is concerning the report of the End, and the foundations of the earth shall understand 16. that the speech is concerning them ; and they shall tremble

¹ Possibly the underlying Greek is ἀπὸ τοῦ Ἀβραὰμ ἦν τῶν τοῦ Ἀβραὰμ (Hilgenfeld), *i. e.* from Abraham to his immediate descendants. The new age will follow this *immediately* without a break.

² L. and other Versions omit reading *from A.* (*were*) begotten *Jacob and Esau* : Syriac may be right.

³ Text has sing. *was* (*begotten*), the twins being regarded as one birth.

⁴ L. + *from the beginning* (so Ar.¹).

⁵ So Syr. rightly. L. has *For Esau is the end of this world, and Jacob is the beginning of it that followeth* (R.V.).

⁶ *i. e.* the beginning.

⁷ L. + *I beseech thee.*

⁸ *i. e.* the last.

⁹ So emend Syriac to read (*part*) of them instead of *from me.*

¹⁰ Cf. Ezek. ii. 1; Dan. vii. 4.

¹¹ Cf. Exod. xix. 16.

¹² Lit. *shaking shake.*

and quake,¹ for they feel that their end (is being) changed.²

17. And it came to pass that when I heard I stood upon my feet, and I heard, and lo ! a voice of one speaking,³ and his ⁴ voice was as the voice of many waters.⁵ 18. And he ⁶ said :

Behold the days come,⁷ and it shall be,
when I am drawing nigh to visit the dwellers
upon earth,

19. and when I am about to require at the hands of
evil-doers . . .⁸
and when the humiliation of Sion shall be
complete ;⁹

20. and when this world¹⁰ is about to be sealed,¹¹
which is about to pass away—

these signs I will do : the books¹² shall be opened
before the face of the firmament, and all shall see
[my judgement]¹³ together.

¹⁴ [21. And children one-year old shall speak and
utter their voice¹⁵ ; and pregnant women untimely
shall bear children at three and four months, and
they shall live and dance. 22. And suddenly
tunsown[†]¹⁶ places shall be found sown,¹⁷ and
full storehouses shall suddenly be found empty :]¹⁴

¹ Lit. *be moved or shaken.*

² Participle in Syr.

³ Or *a voice speaking.*

⁴ Or *its.*

⁵ Cf. Ezek. i. 24; Rev. i. 15, xiv. 2, xix. 6. The Divine
Voice is meant.

⁶ Or *it* (the voice).

⁷ A common introductory phrase, especially in the prophets
(cf. Amos viii. 11, ix. 13), and adopted by Apocalyptic writers
(cf. *Ap. Bar.* xx. 1, xxiv. 1, etc.).

⁸ A word seems to have fallen out = *their iniquity* (cf. L.).

⁹ The fall of Jerusalem is a definite step towards the End;
cf. Ap. Bar. xx. 2.

¹⁰ Or *age.*

¹¹ *i. e.* closed up like a document that is sealed.

¹² *i. e.* the celestial records of the deeds of the righteous
and wicked; *cf. Dan.* vii. 10; *Rev.* xx. 12; *Ap. Bar.* xxiv. 1.

¹³ So Syr.; the other Versions omit (or supply *them* or *me*).

¹⁴ Probably vers. 21-22 are misplaced, and belong between
vers. 8 and 9 of ch. v.; *see E.A.*, p. 75.

¹⁵ Cf. *Jubilees*, xxiii. 25. ¹⁶ So emend; text “unsowing.”

¹⁷ Cf. *Enoch* lxxx. 2; *Jubilees*, xxiii. 18.

23. and the trumpet ¹ shall call with a loud sound, which all shall hear suddenly and be affrighted. 24. And it shall come to pass in that time friends shall war with their friends as enemies, (so) that the earth shall be amazed with its inhabitants; and the outgoings of the springs shall stand (still) without running ² three hours.³

25. And it shall be (that) every one who surviveth ⁴ all these things of which I have told thee beforehand, he shall live and see my deliverance ⁵ and the end of the ⁶ world. 26. And then shall he see the men who have been taken up, who have not tasted death since their birth.⁷ And the heart of the inhabitants of the earth shall be transformed, and changed into a different mind.⁸

27. For evil is blotted out
and deceit extinguished;

28. and faith blossometh,
and corruption is overcome;
and truth appeareth which hath remained
without fruit (so) many years.

29. And it came to pass, while he ⁹ spake with me, that behold, little by little, the place on which I was standing shook.

¹ i. e. the trumpet which ushers in the last judgement (cf. *Sibyll. Or.* iv. 173 f.); elsewhere it is associated with the awakening of the sleeping dead (1 Cor. xv. 52; 1 Thess. iv. 16); see further *E.A.*, p. 75.

² Cf. *Ps. Sol.* xvii. 21; *Assumpt. Moses*, x. 6; *Test. XII Patr. Levi* IV.

³ Ar. ² years.

⁴ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxxii. 1, lxxi. 1, xxix. 2; 1 Thess. iv. 15; Mark xiii. 13; and in this Book ix. 8, xiii. 16-24, 26, 48.

⁵ i. e. the Messianic salvation; cf. e. g. Luke ii. 30.

⁶ L. my.

⁷ i. e. the men removed from earth without dying, especially Enoch and Elijah (also, in our Book, Ezra; cf. xiv. 9); see *E.A.*, p. 77 f.

⁸ Cf. *Mal.* iv. 6 (Heb. iii. 24) of Elijah.

⁹ Or it (the Divine Voice).

The Conclusion of the Vision (VI. 30-34)

30. And he said to me : These things¹ I came to make known to thee this night. 31. If, therefore, thou wilt again supplicate and fast seven days more, I will reveal to thee things greater than these.¹ 32. Because thy voice hath surely been heard with the Most High ; for the Mighty One² hath seen thy purity,³ yea⁴ the holiness⁵ which hath been thine from thy youth. 33. And therefore hath he sent me to reveal to thee all these things. ⁶ And he said⁶ to me : Take heart, and fear not ! 34. And be not hasty to think evil⁷ of⁸ former times, lest inquisition come upon thee in the last times !⁹

¹ *i. e.* the content of the previous Vision : L. adds at end of ver. 31 *per diem*, which probably represents something which should belong to following verse (? *pridem*) ; cf. *E.A.*, p. 80.

² Cf. ix. 45.

³ L. *thy rectitude*.

⁴ L. + *hath marked (providit)*.

⁵ L. *chastity (pudicitiam)* ; chastity, like fasting, intensifies the power of prayer, and prepares the way for a revelation (cf. 1 Enoch lxxxiii. 2).

⁶ L. *and to say*.

⁷ *i. e.* indulge in idle thoughts.

⁸ Lit. *concerning*.

⁹ See *E.A.*, p. 81.

VISION III

(VI. 35—IX. 25)

Introduction (VI. 35—37)

35. And it came to pass after this I wept and fasted seven days that I might fulfil the three weeks¹ which had been commanded me. 36. And it came to pass in the eighth night that lo ! my heart was again moved within me, and I began to speak before the Most High ; 37. because my spirit was greatly inflamed,² and my soul was on fire.³

The Problem ; If the World was created for Israel, why is Israel disinherited ? (VI. 38—59).⁴

38. And I said : O Lord [my Lord],⁵ thou didst indeed⁶ speak at⁷ the beginning of thy⁸ creation on the first day, and didst command⁹ that heaven and earth should be,¹⁰ and thy Word,¹¹ [O Lord],¹² perfected the work. 39. And the Spirit¹³ was then hovering,

¹ Only two have been mentioned, viz. one here, and one before the second Vision ; there seems to have been one originally before Vision I ; cf. *E.A.*, p. 82.

² Cf. Ps. xxxix. 3 ; Luke xxiv. 32.

³ L. *was in distress (anxiabatur)*.

⁴ Probably an old Jewish Midrash on the works of creation underlies this ; see *E.A.*, p. 83.

⁵ So *Ethiop. Ar.*¹ ; L. omits.

⁶ Lit. *speaking.*

⁷ Lit. *from.*

⁸ L. *the.*

⁹ Lit. *say.*

¹⁰ Cf. Gen. i. 1.

¹¹ Note this hypostasizing use of *Word* developed from such passages as Ps. xxxiii. 6 ; cf. Heb. xi. 3 ; 2 Pet. iii. 5.

¹² Omitted by the other Versions.

¹³ Cf. Gen. i. 2.

and darkness (was) veiling ¹ and ² silence of the voice ; and the voice ² of man was not yet. 40. Then thou didst command that a ray of light ³ should come forth out of thy treasures in order that thy works might become visible.

41. And on the second day again thou didst create the spirit ⁴ of the firmament and didst command it to make a division between the waters and the waters, ⁵ in order that a portion of them might ascend on high and the other portion remain beneath.

42. And on the third day ⁶ thou didst command the waters to be gathered together to one of the seven parts ⁷ of the earth ; but six parts thou didst dry up and reserve that some of ⁸ them might be serving before thee and be both ploughed and sown.⁹ 43. But thine own Word went forth, and immediately the work was done.

44. For then straightway ¹⁰ there sprang forth fruits many, innumerable, and sweet in their tastes, of every sort ; ¹¹ And flowers which in their forms were unlike one another,¹² [and trees which in their appearance were dissimilar ;] ¹³

¹ L. *[tenebrae]* *circumferebantur*.

² L. *silentium* ; *sonus vocis* : for silence of the voice (or sound) cf. I Kings xix. 12; R.V. marg. *a voice of gentle stillness*. For the conjunction of silence and darkness cf. *E.A.*, p. 84.

³ i. e. heavenly (not created) light; it was afterwards withdrawn; cf. *E.A.*, p. 85.

⁴ i. e. angel. ⁵ Cf. Gen. i. 6 and see *Jubilees*, ii. 4.

⁶ Cf. Gen. i. 9-13; *Jubilees*, ii. 5-7.

⁷ Clement of Alex., *Recognitions*, ix. 26; Philo. *Mund. opif.* 34-36.

⁸ Lit. *from*.

⁹ The cultivation of the soil is man's destiny and duty from the beginning; cf. Gen. ii. 15; Ps. civ. 14, and see *E.A.*, p. 86 f. Some mention of the creation of Paradise might be expected here.

¹⁰ Lit. *suddenly* ; L. *subito*.

¹¹ i. e. exquisitely varied in taste. ¹² L. *of inimitable colour*.

¹³ So Ethiop. Ar.¹; but L. omits.

and odours which in their scents¹ were indefinable.²

These came into being on the third day.

45. And on the fourth day thou didst command, and there came into being the shining sun, and the light of the moon, and the order of the stars³; 46. and thou didst command them to serve man⁴ who was about to be formed by thee.

47. And on the fifth day⁵ thou didst give command to the seventh part, where the waters were, that beasts and birds and fishes should come forth, and they came into being.⁶ 48. The dumb and lifeless⁷ waters were producing that in which there was life,⁸ that from these the generations might declare thy wonders.⁹ 49. And then thou didst reserve two creatures [which thou hadst created]¹⁰; and thou didst call the name of the one Behemoth, and the name of the other thou didst call Leviathan.¹¹ 50. And thou didst separate them, the one from the other, because that moist seventh part¹² was unable to contain them.¹³ 51. And thou didst give to Behemoth one of the parts which had been dried up on the third day, that he might dwell there, where (are) a thousand mountains¹⁴; 52. but to Leviathan thou didst give

¹ Lit. *odours*.

² Lit. *unsearchable*. This description may have originally been one of the beauties of Paradise; see *E.A.*, p. 88.

³ Astronomy was a subject of much interest in Apocalyptic circles; see, e. g., 1 Enoch lxxii.-lxxxii.

⁴ Cf. Clement of Alex., *Recognitions*, v. 29.

⁵ Cf. Gen. i. 20-23; *Jubilees*, ii. 11-12; 2 Enoch xxx. 7.

⁶ Lit. *and they were*: LXX. in Gen. i. 20 has *and it was so* at end of verse.

⁷ Lit. *without soul*.

⁸ Or *soul* (Heb. *nefesh*), the vital principle.

⁹ Cf. Ps. xxvi. 7, cv. 2. ¹⁰ Other Versions omit.

¹¹ For the myth of Behemoth and Leviathan cf. *E.A.*, pp. 90-92.

¹² *That moist seventh part* = L. *where the water was gathered together*.

¹³ Both were originally sea-monsters.

¹⁴ Cf. Ps. 1. 10 (*Behemoth* [E.V. *cattle*] *upon a thousand hills*).

one of the seven parts of the moisture : and thou hast reserved them to be food for whom thou wilt and when thou wilt.¹

53. And on the sixth day² thou didst command the earth that it should bring forth before thee cattle and beasts³ and creeping things. And over these [however] thou didst appoint Adam as leader over all the works⁴ that thou didst create antecedently ; and from him are we, the people whom thou hast chosen.

55. All this, however, I have spoken before thee, O Lord [my Lord],⁵ because thou hast said that for our sakes thou didst create this⁶ world⁷ ; 56. but as for the rest of the peoples who are descended⁸ from Adam, thou hast said that they are nothing,⁹ and hast likened them unto spittle,¹⁰ and to a drop from a bucket hast thou likened their abundance.¹¹ 57. And now, O Lord, behold, these peoples which are reputed as nothing [behold] lord it over us and crush¹² us ! 58. But we, thy people, whom thou hast honoured and hast called the first-born¹³ and only (begotten),¹⁴ near and beloved (one)¹⁵—lo ! we are given up into their hands. 59. And if for our sakes the world was created, why do we not inherit our world ? How long (shall) these things (be) ?

¹ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxix. 4, where it is made clear that the righteous will devour the monsters at the Messianic banquet. For the modification here see *E.A.*, p. 90.

² Cf. Gen. i. 24-28; *Jubilees*, ii. 13-14; 2 *Enoch* xxx. 8 f.

³ i. e. beasts of prey.

⁴ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xiv. 18.

⁵ Other Versions omit.

⁶ L. *the*.

⁷ For this doctrine cf. vii. 11; *Assumpt. Moses*, i. 1, 2; *Ap. Bar.* xv. 7; and see further *E.A.*, p. 93 f.

⁸ Lit. *begotten*.

⁹ Cf. Isa. xl. 17 (Dan. iv. 35 or 32).

¹⁰ Cf. Isa. xl. 15 in LXX, which read *rōk* for *dōk*—a Hebrew text apparently followed here.

¹¹ i. e. wealth, superfluity.

¹² L. *devour*.

¹³ Cf. Exod. iv. 22; Ps. lxxxix. 27 (28); Ecclus. xxxvi. 12.

¹⁴ Cf. Ps. Sol. xviii. 4, and see *E.A.*, p. 96.

¹⁵ Cf. Jer. xii. 7; Rom. xi. 28; *Ap. Bar.* xxi. 21.

The Debate resumed ; The present Corrupt Order makes the Path to future Felicity narrow and difficult (VII. 1-25)

1. And it came to pass after I had finished speaking these words, lo ! there was sent unto me the angel ¹ that had been sent unto me on former nights. 2. And he said to me : Stand up, Ezra, and hear the words that I have come to say to thee. And I said to him : Speak on, my Lord !

3. And he answered and said to me : If a sea be set ² in a wide place, so that it is broad and unlimited, 4. but its entrance is set ² in a narrow place, so that it is like a river ; 5. and ³ if a man desire to enter upon the sea, and to behold it and master it ⁴— if then he do not pass through the narrow, how shall he be able to come into the broad ?

6. [Hear] ⁵ again another thing ⁶ : There is a city that is built and set ⁷ in a large place of the valley, ⁷ and that city is full of many good things ; 7. and its entrance is narrow and set on a height, ⁸ so that there is fire on the right hand, and on the left deep waters ; 8. and a single path is set between these two, between the fire and the waters, so that that path only sufficeth for a man's footprint alone. If now that city be given ⁹ for an inheritance, unless that heir pass through the danger that is set, ¹⁰ how shall he be able to receive his inheritance ?

¹ *i. e.* Uriel. ² = Gk. *κεῖται*. ³ Lit. *but* (= δέ).

⁴ Lit. *be lord over it* : so L. (*dominari*), possibly due to mis-translation of Heb. (*lirdōth* for *lāredēth* = *to go down on, navigate*) ; see *E.A.* p. 100.

⁵ L. omits.

⁶ *i. e.* another illustration.

⁷ L. *in loco campestri* = *ἐν τόπῳ πεδινῷ* ; cf. Luke vi. 17 : the Syriac may be rendered *valley* or *plain*.

⁸ L. *on a steep (in præcipiti)*. For the narrow (as opposed to the broad) way cf. Matt. vii. 13, 14 ; and for the difficult way leading to a broad plain cf. Ps. lxvi. 12 (reading *into a spacious place*).

⁹ To a man should be added (so other Versions).

¹⁰ Add *before* (him) ; a word may have fallen out.

10. And I said to him : It is indeed so, my Lord ! And he answered and said to me : So also is Israel's portion ; 11. for, for their sakes I made the world : and when Adam transgressed my commandments, that which had been made was condemned.¹ 12. And on this account the entrances of this [present]² world became narrow and full of sighing and travail and many dangers, and much weariness [together with sicknesses and pains]³ ; 13. but the entrances of that future world are broad and care-free,⁴ and produce fruits that do not die.⁵ 14. Unless, then, the living pass through the tribulation and these evils, they shall not be able (to receive)⁶ what has been kept⁷ for them.

15. But now

wherefore art thou perturbed that thou art corruptible,

and why art thou moved that thou art mortal ?⁸

16. And why hast thou not considered what is to come, but (only) what is present ?⁹

17. And I answered and said : O Lord, my Lord, but lo ! thou hast ordained in thy Law¹⁰ that the righteous are to inherit¹¹ these things, but the ungodly are to perish.¹¹ 18. The righteous, therefore, endure¹² well the tribulations¹³ because they hope [to inherit]¹⁴ the spacious (things);¹⁵ but the ungodly bear the tribulations¹³ and do not see the

¹ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxiii. 4; *Rom.* viii. 20: Adam's sin was devastating in its effects.

² Added by Syriac.

³ Apparently an addition by the Syriac; for the original form of the sentence see *E.A.*, p. 102.

⁴ L. *Safe (securi)*.

⁵ Fruits of immortality; cf. *Prov.* xii. 28.

⁶ A corresponding word seems to have fallen out of the Syriac.

⁷ L. *lit. set.* ⁸ Do not brood over death and mortality.

⁹ The New Age will solve these riddles.

¹⁰ Cf. *Deut.* viii. 1. ¹¹ Participle in Syr. (*are inheriting*, etc.).

¹² L. reads future tense (rightly).

¹³ Or *narrow things*. ¹⁴ Other Versions omit.

¹⁵ For the sentiment cf. *Ap. Bar.* xiv. 12.

spacious (things) ! 19. And he answered and said to me :

Thou art not (wiser) ¹ than God,
nor of greater understanding than the Most High !

20. Therefore let the many who have come ² perish ³ on the ground that through them the Law hath been despised which was established by me ³ ! 21. For God gave a commandment to them that have come, ² then when they came, ² as to what they should do and live, and what they should observe and not be punished. ⁴

22. But they resisted and obeyed him not, ⁵ and they devised for themselves vain thoughts, and they added ⁶ for themselves treacheries of apostasy ;

23. and beyond all this they affirmed that the Most High existeth not, ⁷ and did not recognize ⁸ his ways !

24. And his Law they despised, and his covenants they †denied†, ⁹ and believed not his commandments, and spurned his works. ¹⁰

25. Wherefore, O Ezra,
empty things for the empty,
and full things for those who are full ! ¹¹

¹ L. *a judge (above)* : probably a word (= *wise*) has fallen out of Syriac text.

² sc. into being.

³ L. *than that the Law of God which is set before them be despised* : it was supposed that the Torah had been offered to and rejected by the nations of the world outside Israel ; see *E.A.*, p. 105.

⁴ Or tortured.

⁵ L. *they were disobedient and spake against him.*

⁶ = προσέθεντο ; L. = προέθεντο (*proposed to themselves*).

⁷ Cf. viii. 58 and Ps. xiv. 1, liii. 1.

⁸ Or ignored.

⁹ So read by a transposition of two letters.

¹⁰ So Ethiop., but L. has *his commandments* (Heb. *dābhār* = *word* (or commandment), and also *deed* : see *E.A.*, p. 107).

¹¹ Cf. Jer. ii. 5.

**The temporary Messianic Kingdom and the
End of the World (VII. 26-[44])**

26. For behold the days come,¹ and it shall be when the signs come which I have foretold to thee,² and the bride shall be revealed, appearing as a city,² and there shall be revealed she³ that is now cut off : 27. and whoever is delivered from these evils which have been predicted, he shall see my wonders.⁴ 28. For my son the Messiah⁵ shall be revealed together with those who (are) with him,⁶ and shall rejoice those that remain thirty⁷ years. 29. And it shall be after these years my son the Messiah shall die,⁸ and all those in whom is human breath. 30. And the world shall return to its first silence seven days, as it was at the beginning, so that no man is left.⁹

31. And it shall be after seven days that world¹⁰ shall be awakened,¹¹ which now is not awake, and corruption¹² shall perish.

32. And the earth shall give up those that sleep in

¹ Cf. v. 1.

² L. *the bride shall appear, even the city coming forth* ; cf. Rev. xxi. 1 f. (the new Jerusalem descending from heaven as a bride); this may have influenced text here, ἡ νῦν μὴ φανομένη being read ἡ νέμφη κ.τ.λ. See *E.A.*, p. 114. The Heavenly Jerusalem (= *the city which is now invisible*) is meant.

³ *She* = ? the city; true text *the land that is now cut off*, i. e. Paradise; for the juxtaposition cf. viii. 52; *Ap. Bar.* iv.; Rev. xxii. 1 f.

⁴ i. e. God's wonders in the Messianic age.

⁵ L. *my son Jesus* (Christian interpolation).

⁶ i. e. the Messiah's immortal companions; cf. vi. 26 and note.

⁷ L. 400, Ar.² 1000; perhaps 30 may have been intended by the Christian editor here to refer to Jesus (see *E.A.*, p. 115). The temporary Messianic Kingdom is referred to; see *E.A.*, p. 116.

⁸ Death of Messiah nowhere else in Apocalyptic so explicitly referred to; see *E.A.*, p. 117.

⁹ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* iv. 7. ¹⁰ Or *Age* (i. e. the future Age).

¹¹ i. e. called into being.

¹² The present corruptible world-order vanishes away with the coming of the New Age; cf. 1 Cor. xv. 26.

her,¹ and the dust shall give up those that repose therein, and the chambers shall give up the souls that were put in them.²

33. And the most High shall be revealed upon the throne of judgement :³

[and the end shall come,] ⁴
and compassion pass away,
and pity be far off,
and long-suffering be gathered ;⁵

34. But my judgement alone shall remain,
and truth shall stand,
and faith flourish ;

35. And the work⁶ shall come,
and the reward be made known ;
and acts of righteousness⁷ shall awake
and acts of ungodliness shall not sleep.

[36.] And the †pit†⁸ of torment shall appear,
but over against this the place of rest ;
the furnace of Gehenna shall be revealed,
and over against it the Paradise of delights

[37.] And then shall the Most High say to those
nations that have been raised :⁹
Gaze and see what¹⁰ ye have denied,

¹ Cf. Dan. xii. 2; 1 Thess. iv. 13, 15; 2 Pet. iii. 4.

² Here apparently the souls of all the dead are spoken of as kept in chambers or "treasuries"; elsewhere in the Book only those of the righteous (cf. *E.A.*, p. 119 f.).

³ Cf. Dan. vii. 9; Rev. xx. 11 (one throne, not two as in Rev. xx. 4).

⁴ Cf. 1 Cor. xv. 24; other Versions omit.

⁵ *i. e.*? withdrawn (the attributes of the Divine Judge are referred to).

⁶ Or *recompence* (Heb. *pēullā* = *work* and *reward*).

⁷ = acts of charity; cf. Ps. Sol. ix. 6; Matt. vi. 1-4.

⁸ Reading *gūbā*: text = *bosom*; cf. Luke xvi. 23, 24. At this point, ver. [36] begins the lacuna in the Latin text which was supplied by the *Missing Fragment* discovered by Bensly. There was never any lacuna, of course, in the Syriac or other Oriental Versions.

⁹ From the dead.

¹⁰ So Syr. text: perhaps *whom* should be read with L. and other Versions. For the nations raised for judgement cf. Matt. xxv. 31 f.

or whom ye have not served,
or whose commandments ye have despised !

[38.] Look, therefore, over against you :
behold here rest and enjoyments,
and there fire and torment !

Thus shall he speak to them in that Day of Judgement.

[39.] For the Day of Judgement is thus :¹

[40.] on it there is no sun, nor moon, nor stars ;
neither clouds, nor ² lightning, nor thunder ² ;
neither wind, nor water, nor air ³ ;
neither darkness, nor evening, nor morning ;
[41.] neither summer, nor winter, nor autumn ;
neither heat, nor frost, nor cold ;
neither hail, nor dew, nor rain ;
[42.] neither noon, nor night, nor day ;
neither light, [nor torch],⁴ nor radiance, nor
brightness,

save only the splendour of the glory of the Most High from which ⁵ they ⁶ are destined to see what hath been ordained.⁷

[43.] But there shall be an interval as it were a week of years.⁸ [44.] But this is . . . ⁹ and its law,¹⁰ and to thee only have I made them known.

¹ Cf. the paraphrase of vers. [40]–[42] in Ambrose, *de bono mortis*, xii, and the parallel in *Sibyll. Or.* iii. 89–92; the End = the beginning (see *E.A.*, p. 128 f.).

² L. inverts the order.

³ So L.; perhaps *air* here = thin cloud.

⁴ Or *torches* = *λαμπάδες* (? a gloss): L. omits.

⁵ i. e. whereby.

⁶ L. + *all*.

⁷ Or prepared: the uncreated light of the Divine Presence will reveal what has been prepared for the judgement; cf. Is. ix. 19 f.; Rev. xxi. 23.

⁸ Each day = one year.

⁹ A word has fallen out; supply *my Judgement* with L. (and so substantially the other Versions).

¹⁰ i. e. prescribed order.

The Debate continued ; Israel's Election and the Problem of Righteousness (VII. [45]—IX. 22)

The Fewness of the Saved (VII. [45]—[61])

[45.] And I answered and said : O Lord [my Lord],¹ I said even then² and say now again, that blessed are all they who have come³ and have kept the commandments which have been set forth by thee.

[46.] But concerning those about whom my petition (was made)—who is there, then, of those who have come,³ who †hath† not sinned⁴? Or who is there of (those) born who hath not transgressed thy commandment⁵? [47.] And now †I†⁶ see that for few shall that coming world effect⁷ delight, but for many torment.

[48.] For there is⁸ in us the evil heart
which hath caused us to err from these,⁹
and led us into corruption,
and hath shewn us the ways of death,
and made known to us the paths of perdition,
and removed us far from life ;
and this not of a few, but †perchance†¹⁰ of all who
have been¹¹ !

[49.] And he answered and said to me :
Hear me, [Ezra],¹² and I will speak to thee,
and once again¹³ instruct thee.

¹ Omitted by other Versions.

² The allusion is to vii. 17 f.

³ i. e. into life.

⁴ Reading sing.; text has *have sinned* : cf. viii. 17; Rom. x. 1.

⁵ So Ethiop., but L. has *covenant* (two readings διαθήκην and διαταγῆν).

⁶ So read by a slight emendation.

⁷ Lit. *make*.

⁸ L. *hath grown up* (so Ethiop.).

⁹ Viz. commandments; possibly the original text had *God* (see *E.A.*, p. 132).

¹⁰ Reading *kēbar* for *hebar*.

¹¹ L. *who have been created*.

¹² So Ar.¹, but other Versions omit.

¹³ Or *anew* or *from the beginning*.

[50.] For this cause the Most High hath made not one world but two.¹

[51.] Thou, however, because thou hast said there are not many righteous but few . . . ² hear (the answer) to this : [52.] ³ If thou have precious stones and few, against the number of these do thou set lead and clay ! ³

[53.] And I said : How, O Lord, is that possible ?

[54.] And he answered and said to me : Not only so, but

ask the earth, and she shall tell thee ;
speak ⁴ to her, and she shall recount to thee.

[55.] Say to her : Gold hast thou brought forth, and silver, and copper,⁵ and iron, and lead, and clay ;

[56.] But the silver is more (abundant) than gold, and copper than silver, and iron than copper, and lead than iron, and clay than lead.⁶ [57.] Do thou, then, reckon up ⁷ and see, what things are precious and to be desired,⁸ ⁹ the many or the few ? ⁹

[58.] And I answered and said : O Lord my Lord : Things abundant are what are worthless, and things few are precious.

[59.] And he answered and said to me : Do thou, then, reckon up in thine own mind ¹⁰ what thou hast thought ! Because everyone who hath a little that (is) rare rejoiceth over it more than that one who

¹ Here the dualism of the Apocalyptic view comes to bold expression.

² L. + while the ungodly abound : some words have fallen out in the Syriac.

³ The sentence is really a question ; *Wilt thou set with them*, etc., i. e. the number of the elect cannot be increased by the addition of baser elements. The Syriac translator seems not to have understood the verse.

⁴ L. *intreat*. For address to the earth cf. viii. 2; Job xvi. 18.

⁵ L. *bronze* (*æramentum*). The list of metals, etc., is interesting, especially in its order.

⁶ What is rare is precious (notice the emphasis on this).

⁷ Lit. *make comparison* ; cf. iv. 31.

⁸ Lit. *dear*.

⁹ L. *that which is abundant or that which is rare*,

¹⁰ Cf. iv. 31 and note.

hath what is abundant. [60.] So also is the promise of my judgement; for I rejoice [and delight]¹ over the few who live,² because they it is who now strengthen my glory, and for whose sake my name is now extolled. [61.] And I am not pained over the multitude of those who are perishing; for these are they who now

are made like a breath,³
and as the smoke⁴ are they counted,
and are comparable unto the flame;
who are burnt⁵ and extinguished.

Man's Evil Case bewailed (VII. [62]–[74])

[62.] And I answered and said: Oh, what hast thou done,⁶ O earth, [that these have been born from thee and are going to perdition!]⁷ If now the intelligence⁸ is from the dust like the rest of creation, [63.] it would have been better if also the dust had not been,⁹ in order that the intelligence⁸ might not (have) come into being¹⁰ from thence.

[64.] Now, however, the intelligence⁸ groweth with us; and on this account we are tormented, because while we know it we are perishing.

[65.] Let the race of men mourn,
but the beasts of the field rejoice!
let all who are born lament,
but the cattle and the flock exult!¹¹

¹ Other Versions omit.

² Other Versions *are saved*.

³ Or *vapour*; cf. Ps. cxliv. 4; James iv. 14; *Ap. Bar.* lxxxii. 3.

⁴ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* lxxxii. 6.

⁵ L. *burn* and *burn hotly*. [For the sentiment expressed in the verses cf. *Wisd.* ii. 4, and in this Book, xiii. 10 f. The Gentiles are referred to; cf. *Ap. Bar.* lxxxii. 3 f.]

⁶ L. *brought forth*.

⁷ An expansion (cf. also Ar.¹): L. omits.

⁸ Or *mind* (= *voûs*).

⁹ L. *been born*.

¹⁰ Lit. *might not be*. For the sentiment cf. iv. 12.

¹¹ Lit. *delight*: the sentiment expressed would be startling to the ancients.

[66.] For it is far better for them than for us, because they do not expect ¹ the judgement, neither do they know torture, nor hath life after death been promised to them. [67.] For what do we profit that we live,² but are to suffer torment ³?

[68.] For all who are born
are defiled with sins,⁴
and are full of iniquities,
and upon them their offences weigh heavily !

[69.] And if after death we were not coming into judgement, it had been much better for us !

[70.] And he answered and said to me : And when the Most High made ⁵ the world, ⁶ and Adam and all that came from him,⁶ he first prepared the judgement, and the things which pertain to the judgement.⁷

[71.] And now from thine (own) words understand that thou hast said that the intelligence groweth with us. [72.] Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are on this account to suffer torment, because while they have intelligence ⁸ they have committed iniquity, and have received commandments but have not kept them, yea the Law which was bestowed upon them ⁹ they have rejected.¹⁰

[73.] And what is there for them to say in the judgement ¹¹? Or how shall they ¹² open their mouth and speak ¹² in the last time? [74.] For, how long a time hath the Most High been long-suffering¹³ with the inhabitants of the world—and not indeed for their sakes but for the sake of the times ordained?

¹ Or *hope for*.

² Lit. *living we live* (emphatic), *i. e.* are to live hereafter.

³ Lit. *being tortured suffer torture* (emphatic).

⁴ Cf. Eccl. xii. 14; *Ap. Bar.* xxi. 19.

⁵ Lit. *making made*.

⁶ Or *also for Adam and all that came from him*.

⁷ Note the predestinarian idea, and cf. iii. 6.

⁸ Or *mind*.

⁹ Or *ordained for them*.

¹⁰ Or *set at nought* (*ηθέτησαν*).

¹¹ Note the forensic representation (cf. vii. 37), and see *E.A.*, p. 140.

¹² L. *answer*,

¹³ Cf. iv. 37.

**The state of the Soul between Death and
Judgement (VII. [75]–[101])**

[75.] And I answered and said : If I have found favour before thee, O Lord [my Lord],¹ make known to thy servant this also, whether after death now, when we give up, each one of us, our soul—whether we are to be kept in rest until those times come in which thou shalt renew thy creation,² or are we to suffer torment forthwith³ ?

[76.] And he answered and said to me : I will make known to thee concerning this also ; but do not thou mingle thyself with the rebellious,⁴ nor number thyself with those that suffer torment. [77.] For thou hast a treasure of works⁵ laid up with the Most High, and it shall not be shewn to thee until the last times.⁶

[78.] But concerning death the teaching⁷ is : When the decisive⁸ decree of judgement goeth forth from the Most High concerning a man that he shall die,

as the spirit separateth from the body,
that it may be sent⁹ to him who gave it,¹⁰
it first of all worshippeth the glory of God.¹¹

[79.] But if it be of the deniers, or of those who have not kept the ways¹² of the Most High, or of those who have hated the God-fearers¹³— [80.] these souls

¹ L. omits.

² Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxxii. 6 and *Gal.* vi. 15; ² *Cor.* vi. 17; *Matt.* xix. 28; ² *Pet.* iii. 13; *Rev.* xxi. 1.

³ Lit. *from now*.

⁴ Lit. *those who resist*.

⁵ Cf. viii. 36; *Ap. Bar.* xiv. 12, and see *E.A.*, p. 143.

⁶ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxiv. 1.

⁷ Lit. *the word or speech* : L. *sermo*.

⁸ Lit. *end* : L. *terminus*.

⁹ L. *ut dimittatur iterum*.

¹⁰ Cf. *Eccles.* xii. 7.

¹¹ Apparently it remains only temporarily in the Divine Presence at this stage, according to our author; see *E.A.*, p. 144.

¹² L. *the way*.

¹³ Cf. v. 29.

enter not into the chambers,¹ but henceforth are² in torment,³ sighing and anguished, in seven ways.⁴

[81.] The first way: that they have resisted the Law of the Most High. [82.] The second way: that they are unable⁵ to repent and do good works⁵ whereby to live. [83.] The third way: that they see the reward laid up for those who have believed.⁶ [84.] The fourth way: when⁷ they know and understand the torment that is prepared for them at the last.⁸ [Wherein the souls of the ungodly shall be reproached; because while they had the time for service they did not subject themselves to the commandments of the Most High.]⁸ [85.] The fifth way: that they see the chambers of the other souls, that are guarded by angels in great quietness. [86.] The sixth way: that they see the torment which is made ready for them henceforth.⁹

[87.] The seventh way, which exceedeth all the ways aforesaid:

that they pine away through¹⁰ confusion,
and come to an end through shame,¹¹
and burn through fear,

in that they see the glory of the Most High before whom¹² they now sin in their life,¹² and before whom they are destined at the last to be judged.

[88.] Of those, however, who have kept the way

¹ Or *treasuries*; cf. iv. 35.

² L. *wander about* (they have no resting-place).

³ L. + *ever*.

⁴ i. e. manners or kinds.

⁵ L. *to make a good repentance*.

⁶ L. + *the covenants of the Most High* (so Ethiop. Ar.¹); omitted in Syriac (but see next verse).

⁷ = *δτε* (for *δτι*):

⁸ Added by Syriac. It seems to be a paraphrastic expansion of the words (*the covenants of the Most High*) omitted in the previous verse.

⁹ i. e. immediately to follow in the intermediate state before the Judgement (the fourth way refers to torments *after* the Judgement); see *E.A.*, p. 146 f.

¹⁰ Lit. *from*.

¹¹ For the reading of L. here cf. *E.A.*, p. 147.

¹² L. *they have sinned in life.*

of the Most High, this is the way,¹ when ² the day cometh that they shall be delivered ² from this corruptible vessel.³ [89.] For in the time when they dwelt therein they served the Most High painfully, and at all hours endured danger, in order perfectly to keep his Law who had given them the Law.⁴

[90.] Wherefore this is the word concerning them.

[91.] First they behold with great joy the glory of the Most High, who hath guided ⁵ them, and they rest [and come] ⁶ by seven ways.⁷

[92.] The first way ⁸ : because ⁹ with much toil they have striven to overcome the evil thought ¹⁰ which was fashioned with them, that they might not go astray ¹¹ from life to death.

[93.] The second way :⁸ that they see ¹² the whirl whereby the souls of the ungodly are whirled and driven about,¹² and the torment reserved for them.

[94.] The third way⁸ : that they see the witness which their fashioner witnesseth concerning them; because they kept the Law entrusted (to them).

[95.] The fourth way⁸ : that they [see and] ¹³ understand the rest in which they now, as soon as they have been gathered into their chambers,¹⁴ rest in profound rest, and are guarded by angels; and the glory which is reserved for them at the last.

[96.] The fifth way : that they rejoice that ¹⁵ they have fled now from what is corruptible, and that ¹⁵ they inherit what is future; and further they see the straitness and much toil from which they have been

¹ L. *the order* (= ἡ τάξις). ² L. *they shall be separated*.

³ Cf. 1 Cor. xv. 53. Notice that the body in our passage is regarded as the prison-house of the soul.

⁴ L. *the law of the lawgiver*. A variant reading in the Syr. is *the Law given to them*.

⁵ L. *receives*.

⁶ L. and other Versions omit.

⁷ L. *orders* (so Ethiop.).

⁸ L. *order* (so Ethiop.).

⁹ = ὅτι "that."

¹⁰ Cf. iii. 20.

¹¹ L. *that it might not lead them astray*.

¹² R.V. (= L.) *the perplexity in which the souls of the ungodly wander*.

¹³ L. omits.

¹⁴ Lit. *treasuries*.

¹⁵ Lit. *how = quomodo* (= ὡς).

freed, and the wide room¹ which they are destined to receive, and the delights they shall gain, and be immortal.

[97.] The sixth way: when it shall be shewed to them how their faces are destined to shine as the sun, and how they are destined to be made like the light of the stars,² and no more corruptible.

[98.] The seventh way³ which exceedeth all these aforesaid:

that they exult with boldness,⁴

and are confident and not ashamed,⁵

and hasten to behold the face of him whom they served in their life and from whom⁶ they are destined to be glorified, and from whom they are destined to receive reward.⁶ [99.] These are the ways⁷ of the souls of the righteous which from henceforth are announced⁸; and the way of tortures aforesaid⁹ shall the resisters receive.⁹

[100.] [Such souls ascend not into chambers,¹¹ but from henceforth are afflicted with tortures and are grieved and lament in seven ways.]¹⁰

[100.] And I answered and said: Is then [place or]¹² time given to the souls,¹³ after they separate from the body, to see what thou hast told me?

[101.] And he answered and said to me: Seven days have they freedom¹⁴ that in these seven days

¹ Lit. *widths* (plural); cf. Ps. iv. 1. The word might be rendered *refreshment*.

² Based on Dan. xii. 3; cf. Matt. xiii. 43; *Ap. Bar.* li. 10;

¹ Enoch xxxix. 7, civ. 2; the figure denotes immortality.

See *E.A.*, p. 151.

³ Cf. ver. 87 above.

⁴ Cf. *Wisd.* v. 1.

⁵ L. + are glad without fear.

⁶ L. they are destined to receive their reward in glory.

⁷ L. this is the order.

⁸ = ἐπαγγέλλονται.

⁹ L. (cf. R.V.) they that would not give heed shall suffer henceforth; Ethiop. the deniers shall suffer.

¹⁰ An addition by the Syr., apparently a doublet (?) added as a gloss here) of ver. 80 above. None of the other Versions support this.

¹¹ Lit. *treasuries*.

¹² Omitted by the other Versions.

¹³ Apparently of the righteous only; see *E.A.*, p. 152.

¹⁴ Lit. *seven are the days of their freedom*.

they may see these things aforesaid; and after this they shall be gathered into their chambers.

No Intercession on the Day of Judgement
(VII. [102]–[115])

[102.] And I answered and said: If I have found favour in thy sight, make known to¹ thy servant this² also: whether in the Day of Judgement the righteous can intercede for³ the ungodly, or intreat the Most High for them—

[103.] Either fathers⁴ in behalf of their sons,⁵ or sons⁵ in behalf of their fathers,⁴ or brothers in behalf of their brothers, or kinsfolk⁶ in behalf of their kinsfolk, or friends in behalf of their friends⁶?

[104.] And he answered and said to me: Because thou hast found favour before my sight, I will make known to thee concerning this also. The Day of Judgement is a decisive⁷ day, and (one) declaring to all the seal of truth.⁸ For as now a father sendeth not a son, or a son his father, or a master his slave, or a friend his dearest that in his stead he may be ill,⁹ or sleep, or eat or be healed; [105.] so also then can none pray on behalf of any on that day, neither shall one lay¹⁰ a burden on any, for all then bear everyone his own righteousness or his iniquity.¹¹ [106.] And I answered and said: How is it, then, my Lord, (that) we have found¹² that formerly Abraham prayed for the Sodomites,¹³ and also Moses

¹ L. + *me*.

² L. omits *this*.

³ Lit. *beg off, apologize for*; L. *excusare* = παραιτεῖσθαι + accus.

⁴ Or *parents*.

⁵ Or *children*.

⁶ L. *kinsfolk for their nearest, friends for their dearest*.

⁷ Or *determinate*.

⁸ i. e. the seal of the judge which attests the truth and justice of the sentence (Gunkel).

⁹ L. *may understand* (reading *ἴνα νοῆ* for *ἴνα νοσῆ*).

¹⁰ Possibly “make himself a burden on” is meant.

¹¹ Cf. Ezek. xviii. 20.

¹² sc. in Scripture (written).

¹³ Cf. Gen. xviii. 23.

in the wilderness for the fathers, when they sinned;¹ [107.] and Joshua the son of Nun after him for Israel in the days of Achar;² [108.] and Samuel in the days of Saul;³ and David for the ruin⁴ of the people, and Solomon for those in⁵ the Sanctuary; [109.] and Elijah for those who received the rain,⁶ and for the dead that he might live;⁷ [110.] And Hezekiah for the people in the days of Sennacherib,⁸ and many on behalf of many? [111.] If, therefore, now, when corruption is grown up and mischief multiplied, the righteous have prayed for the ungodly—why, O Lord, should it not be so then also?

[112.] And he answered and said to me: This world has an end,⁹ and the glory of God¹⁰ abideth not therein continuously; therefore have the strong prayed for those who have no strength. [113.] But the Day of Judgement is the end of this world and the beginning of the future world, which dieth not; wherein

[114.] corruption is passed away,
and impudicity¹¹ is dissolved,
and infidelity is abolished,
and righteousness is grown up,
and truth¹² hath arisen.¹³

[115.] So shall none then be able to compassionate him who is condemned¹⁴ in the Judgement, nor harm him who is victorious [in the Judgement].¹⁵

¹ Cf. Exod. xxxii. 11.

² This is the best attested form; cf. Josh. vii. (where *Achan* is the form given); see *E.A.*, p. 158.

³ Cf. 1 Sam. vii. 9, xii. 23.

⁴ A.V. *destruction*; this is a wrong rendering of *θραῦσις* = in LXX *plague*; the ref. is to 2 Sam. xxiv. 15 f.

⁵ Or *those of*; perhaps *those who (should pray) in the sanctuary*; cf. 1 Kings viii. 22 f., 30 f.

⁶ Cf. 1 Kings xviii. 42.

⁷ Cf. 1 Kings xvii. 20 f.

⁸ Cf. 2 Kings xix. 15 f.

⁹ L. *is not the end*.

¹⁰ i. e. the Shekinah or Divine Presence; cf. *E.A.*, p. 159.

¹¹ = *ἀσέλγεια* = L. (*intemperantia*); Ethiop. *weakness* (= *ἀσθένεια*).

¹² = *faithfulness*.

¹³ Cf. for whole verse vi. 27, 28.

¹⁴ Lit. *is overcome* (= *ηττήθη*).

¹⁵ Added by Syriac.

The Promises of future Felicity only mock a Sin-stained Race (VII. [116]–[131])

[116.] And I answered and said : This is my first and last word ; that it would have been better for the earth not to have produced Adam,¹ or (else) when she did produce him that thou hadst instructed² him not to sin. [117.] For how doth it profit all who have come³ to live here⁴ in affliction, and when they⁵ are dead to await torment ? [118.] Oh, what hast thou done, Adam ! For though it was thou that didst sin, yet the evil⁶ was not thine alone, but ours also who are from thee !

[119.] For what advantage is there that lo ! there is promised to us an immortal time,⁷ whereas we have done the works that bring death ?⁸ [120.] And that there hath been made known⁹ to us an imperishable hope,¹⁰ whereas we miserably are brought to futility ?¹¹ [121.] And that there chambers of safety and health are kept, whereas we have behaved wickedly ? [122.] And that the glory¹² of the Most High is destined to protect¹³ them who have lived chastely, whereas we proceed in wicked ways ? [123.] And that Paradise, whose fruit withereth not,¹⁴ wherein¹⁵ is delight and healing, is manifested, [124.] whereas we do not enter in, because we have

¹ Cf. iii. 5.

² = κατηχεῖν (so Ethiop.) ; L. hindered (= κατέχειν).

³ = τοῖς πάρουσι, i. e. all who are here ; L. all that are in this present (time).

⁴ Syr. hā.

⁵ L. we.

⁶ So Ethiop ; but L. (?) fall (casus).

⁷ So L. ; but Ethiop. the eternal age.

⁸ Lit. dead (or mortal) works ; cf. Heb. vi. 1.

⁹ So Ethiop. ; but L. predicted.

¹⁰ Cf. 1 Pet. i. 3.

¹¹ Lit. are become vain.

¹² i. e. the Shekinah.

¹³ The Shekinah protects the righteous ; see E.A., p. 161.

¹⁴ L. endures incorruptible.

¹⁵ i. e. in the fruit ; cf. Ezek. xlvi. 12 ; Rev. xxii. 2.

served evil places?¹ [125.] And that the faces of the holy ones² are destined to shine above the stars,³ while our faces shall be blacker than darkness?⁴ [126.] For we did not consider in our life (time), while we were committing iniquity, that we were destined to suffer after our death.

[127.] And he answered and said to me: This is the meaning⁵ of the struggle which man who is born wageth⁶ upon the earth; [128.] (that)⁷ if he be vanquished he shall suffer what thou⁸ hast said; but if he be victorious he shall receive what I⁹ have said.

[129.] Because this is the way of which Moses, while he was alive, spake to the people, and said to them: ¹⁰ [Behold, I have set before you to-day, life and death, good and evil;] ¹⁰ choose you, then, life that you may live¹⁰ [you and your seed].¹⁰ [130.] And [they resisted and]¹¹ believed¹² him not, nor the prophets after him, and¹³ even me¹⁴ who have spoken with them. [131.] Therefore shall there be no grief over their perdition, as there is joy over the life¹⁵ of those who have believed.¹²

¹ So L. but *manners* should be read (*τρόπους* for *τρόποις*); cf. *E.A.*, p. 162.

² L. *such as practised abstinence.*

³ Cf. *Dan. xii. 3.*

⁴ Cf. *E.A.*, p. 162.

⁵ Lit. *thought* or *intent*; probably originally = *condition*; cf. *E.A.*, p. 162 f.

⁶ Lit. *striveth (struggleteth).*

⁷ Probably a letter has fallen out in the Syriac.

⁸ Or *I* (probably 2nd person is meant; so L.).

⁹ Or *thou* (probably 1st person is meant; so L.); see *E.A.*, p. 163.

¹⁰ Addition by Syriac from *Deut. xxx. 15, 19*; L. and *Ethiop.* omit.

¹¹ Added by Syriac.

¹² Or *obeyed.*

¹³ i. e. nor.

¹⁴ The angel speaks as God.

¹⁵ L. *salvation.*

How can the Perdition of so many of His Creatures be reconciled with God's Character ? (VII. [132.]—VIII. 62)

Will the Merciful and Compassionate One suffer so many to Perish ? (VII. [132.]—VIII. 3)

[132.] And I answered and said to him : I know, Lord, that now the most High is called¹ the “ compassionate,” because he compassionateth those who have not yet come into the world²; [133.] and “ gracious,” because he is gracious to those who turn³ to his Law; [134.] and “ long-suffering,” because he is long-suffering with us, with⁴ those who sin, because we are his works;⁴ [135.] and “ giver,”⁵ because he is willing to give rather than exact⁶; [136.] and “ of great mercy,” because he greatly multiplieth mercies upon them who are now (in existence), and upon those who have passed away, and upon those who are to come—[137.] for if he did not multiply his mercies,⁷ the world with its inhabitants could not live⁸; [138.] and the “ Giver,”⁹ because unless in his goodness he gave,¹⁰ so that evil-doers were eased¹¹ of their iniquities, not even one of ten thousand men¹² could live;¹³ [139.] and

¹ The epithets applied to God in the following passage (defining the divine attributes) are based upon Exod. xxxiv. 6-7; possibly a Midrash on this passage lies behind our text; see *E.A.*, p. 164 f.

² *i. e.* are not yet born; though God foresees man's sins, He is yet compassionate.

³ Or *return*.

⁴ L. to sinners as his works.

⁵ So *Ethiop.*: L. (*munificus*) = *bountiful*.

⁶ *i. e.* perhaps *granteth pardon* rather than *exacteth punishment*; see *E.A.*, p. 167.

⁷ ? in the intermediate state; see *E.A.*, p. 167.

⁸ *i. e.* in the future life.

⁹ *i. e.* of merit (to enable them to escape eternal punishment); see *E.A.*, p. 167 f.

¹⁰ sc. merit.

¹¹ Lit. *were lightened*.

¹² L. *the ten thousandth part of mankind*.

¹³ In the future life.

“ judge,”¹ for if he did not pardon them who were created by his word, and disregard² the multitude of their iniquities, [140.] there would only be left of an innumerable multitude very few.³

VIII. 1. And he answered and said to me : This world⁴ hath the Most High made for the sake of many, but that which is to come for the sake of few. 2. But I will expound *ta parable*†,⁵ O Ezra : as when⁶ thou shalt ask the earth and it shall say to thee⁷ what dust it yieldeth more abundantly, that from which cometh the potsherd, or that from which cometh gold ;⁷ so is the work⁸ of this world. 3. Many have been created, but few live.⁹

Shall God's Creature, so wonderfully fashioned, perish finally ? (VIII. 4-19)

4. And I answered and said :

O my soul, absorb understanding,
And, O my heart,¹⁰ drink discernment !¹¹

5. For without thy will thou camest,

And departest when thou hast not willed.¹²

For power¹³ hath only been given thee for¹⁴ life for a brief time.

6. O Lord, my Lord,¹⁵ if thou wouldest command¹⁶

¹ So L. and other versions—an error; ? read *forgiving* (see *E.A.*, p. 168.).

² L. *blot out*. ³ Lit. *a small few*. ⁴ Or *age*.

⁵ So read (transposing two letters) = the other versions; Syr. text *a word*.

⁶ Lit. *as*.

⁷ L. (R.V.) *that it giveth very much mould whereof earthen vessels are made, and little dust that gold cometh of*.

⁸ L. *course (actus)*; both = *ἡ πρᾶξις*.

⁹ L. *shall be saved*; cf. Matt. xxii. 14, and in our Book vii.

49-61.

¹⁰ L. omits *O my heart*.

¹¹ i. e. abandon all attempts to understand the riddle.

¹² Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xlviii. 14 f. ¹³ L. *space*. ¹⁴ Lit. *in*.

¹⁵ L. *O Lord above us* (so also viii. 45); see *E.A.*, p. 171.

¹⁶ = “ if thou wouldest but,” “ Oh that thou wouldest ” (a Hebraism); cf. *E.A.*, p. 171.

thy servant I¹ would pray before thee: And do thou give us² the seed and culture of a new heart³ whence (may) come fruits, so that everyone that is corruptible may be able to live who is clothed with the form⁴ of man. 7. For one art thou, and one fashioning are we, the work of thine hands, as thou hast said.⁵ 8. And⁶ thou dost indeed quicken⁷ for us now in the womb the body which thou hast fashioned, and compostest the members; and thy creature is kept in fire and water,⁸ and nine months doth thy fashioning⁹ bear the creature which thou hast created in it.¹⁰ 9. But that which keepeth, and that which is kept, are both kept by thy keeping. And when the womb giveth again what has been¹¹ therein, 10. thou hast commanded that out of the members¹² should come milk, the fruit of the [full]¹³ breasts, 11. that what hath been fashioned may grow¹⁴ for a short time. 12. And afterwards—

thou guidest it in thy mercy,
and nourishest it in thy righteousness;
and disciplinest it in thy law,
And admonishest it in thy wisdom—
13. and thou killest it as thy creature,
and quickenest it as thy work.¹⁵

14. If, then, thou¹⁶ suddenly and quickly¹⁶ destroyest this one who hath been fashioned with all this

¹ L. *we*.

² = “O that thou wouldest give us.”

³ R.V. *seed unto our heart and culture to our understanding*;
cf. Rom. xii. 2; Ephes. iv. 23.

⁴ L. *place* (*τόπον* for *τύπον*).

⁵ Cf. Is. xlv. 11, lx. 21, lxiv. 8 f. God is one, unique, Father, and Creator; cf. vi. 1-6.

⁶ L. + *when*.

⁷ Lit. *quicken*ing *quicken*.

⁸ Man's living organism is compounded of the primal elements (an Oriental doctrine); cf. iv. 10; 2 Enoch xxx. 15, with Charles's note.

⁹ i. e. the womb.

¹⁰ L. *which is created in it*.

¹¹ L. + *created*.

¹² L. + *that is out of the breasts* (? a gloss).

¹³ Added by Syriac.

¹⁴ Or *be nourished*.

¹⁵ Cf. 1 Sam. ii. 6.

¹⁶ L. *with a light word* (or *command*).

great labour, according to thy command, for what purpose, then, came he into being? 15. ¹ Now also I have spoken concerning all men; but even more, thou knowest, that ¹

16. concerning thy people I suffer,
and concerning thine heritage ²—that concerning it I mourn;
and concerning Israel—that concerning him I am grieved,
and concerning Jacob's seed ³—that concerning it I am moved.

17. Therefore behold I will begin to pray and supplicate before thee for myself and for them; because lo! I see the trespasses of us who inhabit the world,⁴ 18. but also now have heard the decree of judgement ⁵ that is to come. 19. Therefore hear my voice,
and listen to ⁶ the words of my prayer,⁶
and I will speak before thee, [O Lord my God].⁷

The Seer's Prayer for the Divine Compassion on His People, and the Reply (VIII. 20-40)

20. ⁸ The beginning of the words of the Prayer of Ezra which he prayed before he was taken up.⁸

O Lord that dwellest for ever,⁹
¹⁰ whose heights are exalted,¹⁰
and whose chambers¹¹ are in the air;

¹ L. *But now I will say: Concerning man in general thou knowest best; but* (Syriac constructs sentence differently).

² Cf. Ps. xxviii. 9.

³ Cf. iii. 19.

⁴ L. *that dwell in the land.*

⁵ Cf. v. 34.

⁶ L. *my words* (cf. Ethiop.).

⁷ Added by Syriac; other versions omit.

⁸ This superscription has been inserted into the text by the Latin, Syriac, and Ethiopic. The piece seems to have been excerpted early for liturgical purposes; see *E.A.*, p. 175 f.

⁹ Cf. Is. lvii. 15.

¹⁰ L. *whose are the highest heavens*; cf. Deut. x. 14.

¹¹ ? the heavenly Paradise (for phraseology cf. Ps. civ. 3).

21. whose throne is infinite,¹
 and whose glory is inconceivable ;²
 before whom the hosts³ stand in fear,
 at whose word they change to fire and wind ;⁴

22. whose word is trustworthy,
 and whose speech abideth ;⁵
 whose commandment is strong,
 and whose utterances⁶ are terrible ;

23. whose look drieth up the deep,⁷
 and whose rebuke⁸ melteth the mountains,
 and whose truth beareth witness—⁹

24. Hear the voice of thy servant,
 and listen to thy creature's petition,
 and regard my words !

25. For while I live I will speak,
 and while I have understanding will I answer.

26. O regard not the trespasses of thy people,
 but them that have served thee in truth ;

27. and regard not¹⁰ the follies of the intrigues
 of the ungodly,¹⁰
 but them that have kept thy covenants in
 ignominy ;¹¹

28. think not upon those that have behaved them-
 selves badly¹² before thee,
 but remember them that with good will have
 recognized thy fear !¹³

¹ L. *inestimable* ; the mystery of God's throne is the subject of Ezek. i.

² Cf. Rom. xi. 33.

³ i. e. of heaven.

⁴ Cf. Ps. civ. 4 (this passage implies the rendering *who maketh his angels winds*, etc., see *E.A.*, p. 178).

⁵ = *is constant* (an allusion to the Synagogue prayer 'emeth *wé-yaṣṣib* ; cf. *E.A.*, p. 179).

⁶ Other versions have singular.

⁷ The other versions have the plural. ⁸ = ἀπειλή.

⁹ So all the versions except Ar.², which has right reading *remaineth for ever* (see *E.A.*, p. 179) ; the verse is cited in Greek in *Const. Apost.* viii. 7.

¹⁰ L. and other versions *the deeds of the ungodly*.

¹¹ L. *in tortures* ; the martyrs are meant.

¹² L. *walked feignedly* (= ? hypocritical adherents of the Law).

¹³ i. e. *fear of thee* = religion, piety ; cf. Ps. xix. 10.

29. and will not to destroy those that have become like the cattle,¹
 but regard them that have received² the splendour of³ thy Law;

30. and be not angry against those who have behaved worse than the beasts,⁴
 but love them that have always put their trust in thy glory.

31. Because we and⁵ those before us⁵ have⁶ practised works of corruption, and behaved madly⁶; but thou because of us sinners art called the Compassionate.

32. For if us, who have no works,⁷ thou art willing to compassionate, thou shalt be named Gracious One. 33. For the righteous who have⁸ works laid up with thee can receive out of their own works.⁹

34. For—
 what is man that thou shouldest be (so) angry with him,
 or a corruptible race that thou shouldest be (so) hot¹⁰ against it?

35. For in truth
 there is none of those born that hath not dealt wickedly,
 Nor of these who exist that hath not sinned!

36. For in this, O Lord [my Lord],¹¹ shall thy¹² goodness be known if thou art compassionate towards them that have no wealth¹³ of works.

¹ i. e. probably Jews who lived like heathen (? the 'am hā-āres).

² Due to a misreading of διδάξαντες; L. taught.

³ L. in splendour.

⁴ A more infamous class still (? Jewish informers).

⁵ v.l. our fathers.

⁶ R.V. have passed our lives in ways that bring death; for text cf. E.A., p. 182.

⁷ L. + of righteousness.

⁸ L. + many.

⁹ Cf. Ap. Bar. xiv. 12.

¹⁰ v.l. bitter; cf. Job vii. 17 f. (Ps. viii. 4).

¹¹ Omitted by other Versions.

¹² L. + righteousness and.

¹³ Or power.

The Divine Reply

37. And he answered and said to me : Some things thou hast spoken aright and according to thy words,¹ so shall it be. 38. Because in truth I take no thought about the fashioning of the evil doers, or about their death,² or about their judgement, or about their perdition ;³ 39. but I delight (rather) over [the coming of]⁴ the fashioning of the righteous, and over their life, and over the recompence of their reward. 40. For as thou hast said so shall it be.

Mankind is like Seed sown (VIII. 41-45)

41. For as the husbandman [who]⁵ soweth many seeds⁶ and planteth many plants, but not all the seeds live in due season,⁷ nor indeed do all the plants strike root ; so also they who have⁸ come into⁸ the world do not all live.

42. And I answered and said : If I have found favour in thy sight I would speak [before thee] :⁹

43. ¹⁰ For the husbandman's seed, if it receive not thy rain, at its (proper) time, will it live ? Yea rather from much rain it is destroyed.¹⁰

44. But man who hath been fashioned by thine

¹ The seer had prayed (ver. 28 f.) that God would fix His attention rather on the deeds of the righteous than on those of the ungodly ; this part of the petition shall be granted. The angel is still the speaker (note the bitter irony).

² *i. e.* their physical death.

³ *i. e.* final perdition.

⁴ The text of this passage is out of order ; perhaps *the coming of* corresponds to *pilgrimage* in L. and should follow *righteous* (R.V. *their pilgrimage . . . and the salvation, and the reward*). See *E.A.*, p. 185 f.

⁵ Omit.

⁷ Lit. *in time*.

⁹ Added by Syriac.

⁶ L. + *upon the ground*.

⁸ L. *are sown in*.

¹⁰ The Latin text here is corrupt ; as corrected and restored it may be rendered : *Forasmuch as the husbandman's seed, if it come not up, seeing that it hath not received thy rain in due season, or if it be corrupted through too much rain, so perisheth* (R.V.). See *E.A.*, p. 187.

own hands and ¹ is made like thine own image,¹
for whose sake thou hast created all—hast thou
likened him to the seed of the husbandman? ²

45. No! [I beseech thee,] ³ O Lord my Lord,⁴
spare thy people,
and compassionate thine heritage—
thy creature—for thine he is—thou dost com-
passionate!

**The Final Reply; Let the Seer contemplate the
Lot of the Blessed which he is destined to
share (VIII. 46–62)**

46. And he answered and said to me:

⁵ Things of the present are for them of the pre-
sent,
And things of the future are for them who are
future! ⁵

47. For thou comest far short of being able to
love my creation more than I. ⁶

Thou, however, hast many times likened thyself
to the ungodly. It must not be so! 48. But in
this also thou shalt be honoured before the Most
High, 49. because thou hast humbled thyself, as
befitteth thee, and hast not compared thyself ⁷
with the righteous. Therefore thou shalt be the
more honoured. 50. Because with much affliction
shall the inhabitants of the world be afflicted at the
last on account of the great pride ⁸ that they have
displayed.⁹

¹ L. is called thine own image because he is made like (unto thee); the Syriac is probably right here.

² Probably to be taken as a question. The seer protests
against the comparison of mankind to seed; contrast the
parable of the Sower in the Gospels.

³ Added by Syr. (cf. Ethiop.). ⁴ L. O Lord above us.

⁵ For the form of sentence cf. vii. 25.

⁶ Cf. v. 32. ⁷ L. hast not judged thyself (to be).

⁸ Note the remarkable emphasis on the sin of pride and
the virtue of humility.

⁹ Lit. with which they have behaved proudly.

51. But do thou (rather) consider thine own self, and ask concerning the glories of those who are like thyself.¹

52. For for you
 is opened Paradise,²
 and planted the Tree of life;³
 and the future world⁴ prepared,
 and delight⁵ made ready;
 and a City⁶ builded,
 and a Rest⁷ ordained;
 and good perfected,⁸
 and wisdom completed;⁹

53. And the (evil) root¹⁰ is sealed up from you,
 and infirmity from you extinguished,¹¹
 and Death is hidden,¹²
 and Sheol fled;¹³
 and corruption is forgotten,
 and pains departed from you;

54. And in the consummation the treasures of life
 are manifested.

55. Do not thou, therefore, again ask any more concerning the many who perish; 56. because they have received liberty and

¹ *i. e.* probably the righteous dead who already enjoy a foretaste of future felicity.

² *i. e.* the heavenly Paradise which will be reopened after the last Judgement for the righteous.

³ In Paradise; cf. vii. 133; Rev. ii. 7, and see *E.A.*, p. 191.

⁴ Or *age*; for the idea cf. *E.A.*, p. 191.

⁵ L. *plenteousness*.

⁶ *i. e.* the heavenly Jerusalem.

⁷ *i. e.* the rest in heaven; cf. Heb. iii. 18 f.

⁸ Cf. Ephes. ii. 10.

⁹ L. *being perfect beforehand* (R.V.). Cf. 1 Cor. ii. 7.

¹⁰ Cf. iii. 22; 1 Enoch xci. 8 (*root* a technical term in these connections).

¹¹ The sources of sin in man will have been removed in the future Age.

¹² Death, of course, will be abolished; cf. Is. xxv. 8; Rev. xxi. 4.

¹³ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxi. 23 (the underworld is personified, as in Rev. vi. 8).

they have despised the Most High,
his Law also they have scorned much,
and have made his ways to cease :¹

57. Yea, his saints they have trampled upon,² and
58. they have said in their heart that there is no God,³
while they verily⁴ know that they shall surely⁵ die.

59. Therefore as these things aforesaid await
you, so also \dagger thirst and \dagger torment (are) destined
for them. For the Most High willed not that men
should perish; 60. but these who have been created
dishonoured the name of their Maker and were un-
grateful [and confessed me not—]⁷ who⁸ have pre-
pared life for them. 61. Therefore my Judgement
hath drawn nigh, 62. which (thing) I have not made
known to the many, but (only) to thee and to the few
like thee.⁹

The Signs of the End reviewed (VIII. 63—IX. 12)

63. And I answered and said: Behold now (already), O Lord, thou hast made known to me the great number of the signs that thou art about to do in the last days; but thou hast not made known to me at what time.¹⁰

IX. 1. And he answered and said to me: Measure carefully in thy mind,¹¹ \dagger and \dagger ¹² when thou seest that a part of the signs aforesaid is past, 2. then understand that it is the time wherein the Most High is about to visit¹³ the world made by him. 3. And when there shall appear in the world

¹ L. Ethiop. *have forsaken (his ways)*.

² Cf. v. 29.

³ Cf. vii. 23; Ps. xiv. 1.

⁴ Lit. *knowing*.

⁵ Lit. *dying*.

⁶ So read by a slight emendation; Syriac text has (*the torment that is prepared*) *is thirsty*; cf. for the representation, Luke xvi. 24.

⁷ Omitted by L.

⁸ L. *to him who (had)*.

⁹ i. e. to the seers and apocalypticists like Salathiel-Ezra.

¹⁰ Contrast Acts i. 7.

¹¹ Lit. *thyself*.

¹² So read; Syr. text *that*.

¹³ Cf. vi. 18.

quakings of places,¹
 and tumult of assemblages,²
 and schemings of peoples,
 and commotion of leaders,
 and confusion of princes—

4. then perceive that it is of these (things) the Most High hath spoken formerly. 5. For as with respect to everything in the world, its beginning is known³ and its end manifest; 6. so also (are) the times of the Most High: their beginnings are known in portents, [and signs]⁴ and powers,⁵ and their end in requital⁶ and signs. 7. And it shall be (that) everyone that shall survive,⁷ and everyone that shall be able to flee⁸ through his works or through his faith whereby he hath believed— 8. he shall be left (safe) from the peril aforesaid, and shall see my salvation⁹ in my land and in my borders¹⁰ which I have sanctified for myself eternally.¹¹ 9. And then shall they be amazed who have now neglected¹² my ways, and they shall be in torments who have despised and abandoned them.¹³ 10. For all who did not recognize me in their life (time), when I was dealing bountifully with them, and all who have treated my Law with contempt,¹⁴ those¹⁵ (viz.) who

¹ i. e. earthquakes (cf. v. 8); others *stir* (i. e. excitement) of places.

² L. of peoples.

³ L. defective; the text here may originally have been obscure (*ἀφανῆς* corrupted to *εμφανῆς*); cf. *E.A.*, p. 202.

⁴ L. omits.

⁵ L. Ethiop. *in effects.*

⁶ i. e. escape.

⁷ i. e. the Messianic salvation; cf. vi. 25.

¹⁰ Cf. xiii. 35.

¹¹ Lit. *from eternity*: the specially sacred character of the Holy Land is often insisted on in late Jewish literature; cf. ix. 8, xii. 34, xiii. 48 f.; *Ap. Bar.* xxix. 2.

¹² L. *abused.*

¹³ i. e. *my ways*; another reading in L. makes *them* refer to *torments.*

¹⁴ Lit. *behaved themselves proudly against.*

¹⁵ So Syriac; but this may be an error of the translator who misread *ώς* as *οῖς*; other Versions *while* = *ώς*.

had liberty, 12. and while the place of long-suffering¹ was (still) open to them, did not heed, but scorned—for these it is necessary that after death they should know.²

**The Fewness of the Saved further justified
(IX. 13-22)**

13. Do thou, therefore, not search out³ henceforth⁴ how the ungodly shall be tormented, but inquire how the righteous shall live⁵—they whose is the world, and for whom also the world hath come into existence.⁶

14. And I answered and said: 15. ⁷ Now also again I say, and hereafter will say again, that more are those who perish than those who live⁸: 16. just as the waves are more than the small drop.⁹

17. And he answered and said to me:

As the place,¹⁰ so also (are) its seeds,¹¹
and as the flowers, so also (are) the colours,¹²
and as the work, so also (are) the odours,¹³
and as the husbandman, so also (is) the threshing
floor¹⁴;

18. for there was in the time of the world¹⁵ when I had prepared for those who now are, before they were

¹ So Ethiop., but L. and Ar.¹ *repentance*; cf. (for latter) Wisd. xii. 10; Heb. xii. 17.

² So Ethiop., but L. and Ar.¹ + *by* (or *in*) *torment*.

³ L. *be curious*. ⁴ L. *any longer*.

⁵ So Ethiop., but L. and Ar.¹ *be saved*.

⁶ Cf. for the whole verse *Ap. Bar.* xlvi. 48 f.

⁷ L. prefixes to this *I have already said*.

⁸ L. *be saved*; cf. vii. 47.

⁹ Cf. iv. 48 f. ¹⁰ L. *field*.

¹¹ Or *sowings*; i. e. good ground produces good crops.

¹² i. e. the finest flowers produce the most brilliant colourings.

¹³ L. *creation* (= *κτίσις*); but Ethiop. Ar.¹ *judgement* (= *κρίσις*), adopted by R.V., and this probably equals the true text of Syriac. See further *E.A.*, p. 207.

¹⁴ Or *harvest*.

¹⁵ = *ἐν καιρῷ αἰώνος*, i. e. *in the time of eternity*. For the meaning cf. *E.A.*, p. 207.

(in existence) a world for them to live in; and no man withstood me—for indeed there was none (in existence).

19. And now that they have been created upon the world that standeth firm,¹ and upon a table that lacketh not, and upon a Law² that is unsearchable, they are become corrupt in their deeds,³

and I regarded my world, and lo! it was lost!
and my cosmos,⁴ and lo! it was in peril—
on account of the manners⁵ of its inhabitants.

21. And I saw and spared a small few,⁶ and saved me a grape out of a cluster, and a plant out of a great forest.

22. Let the multitude, therefore, perish because it hath come into being in vain; but let my grape be preserved, and my plant, which have been produced⁷ with much toil.

Conclusion of the Vision (IX. 23-25)

23. But if thou wilt separate thyself⁸ seven more days—but thou shalt not [again]⁹ fast therein, 24. and go thou to a field of flowers, where no house hath been built, and eat thou of the flowers of the field only, and flesh thou shalt not taste, nor shalt thou drink wine,¹⁰ but flowers only; 25. and petition the Most High zealously,¹¹ and I will come unto thee and speak with thee.

¹ Or *is made ready* (the text should run [cf. L.] *a world prepared with a table that faileth not, and an unexplorable pasture*, in reference to Paradise; see *E.A.*, p. 207 f.).

² *νόμος* = *Law* confused with *νομός* = *pasture*.

³ L. *manners*.

⁴ A synonym for *world* is used = *τέβηλ*.

⁵ Or possibly *perversions* : L. *devices*.

⁶ Lit. *a small little* : L. *vix valde, but not greatly* (R.V.).

⁷ L. *I have produced*.

⁸ L. *cease*.

⁹ Added by Syriac.

¹⁰ Cf. 2 Macc. v. 27.

¹¹ L. *continually*.

VISION IV

(IX. 26—X. 59)

Introduction (IX. 26–28)

26. And I went, as he commanded me, into the field which is called Arpad,¹ and sat there by² the flowers of the land, and did eat of the herbs³ of the pasture; and the eating thereof was to my satisfaction. 27. And it came to pass after seven days, as I lay upon the grass, that my heart again began to be moved⁴ [upon me]⁵ as before; 28. and my mouth was opened, and I began to speak before the Most High.

The Glory of the Law and Israel: a Contrast

(IX. 29–37)

29. And I said: O Lord [my Lord,]⁶ thou didst verily reveal thyself⁷ to our fathers in the wilderness [of Sinai]⁸ when they went forth out of Egypt, and when they went through the wilderness,⁹ through a land wherein was no fruit, and through which no man hath passed⁹; 30. and thou didst say [to them :]¹⁰

¹ So Ethiop. (cf. 2 Kings xviii. 34); L. (best reading) *Ardat*: a symbolical name of a mysterious place (? Arcadia); see *E.A.*, p. 212 f.

² L. *in* or *among*.

³ Lit. *roots*.

⁴ Or *troubled*.

⁵ Omitted by L.; cf. Ps. xlvi. 5 ("disquieted upon me"): cf. vi. 36.

⁶ So Ethiop., but L. omits.

⁷ L. + *among us*.

⁸ Omitted by other Versions.

⁹ L. *the untrodden and unfruitful*: cf. Jer. ii. 6 [in the last clause of ver. 29 there is a scribal error in the Syriac text; read *wēlā* instead of *wēkad*].

¹⁰ So Ar.² and Arm.; other Versions omit.

Do thou, Israel, hear me,
and, seed of Jacob, listen to my words ! ¹

31. For, behold, I sow in you my Law, and it shall produce in you fruits [of righteousness],² and ye shall be glorified in it for ever.

32. ³ But our fathers received the Law, and kept it not,
and commandments, and did not perform them.⁴

4 And they had the fruits of the Law which perish not, for they could not perish because it is thine.⁴

33. Those, however, who received it perished, because they kept not what had been sown in them.

34. And this is the rule: that when the earth receiveth seed, or the sea a ship, or any other vessel [what hath been put therein]⁵ (viz) the food,⁶ ⁷ or what hath been put, or what hath been kept⁷—

35. these⁸ are destroyed, but these that received them⁹ remain. But with us it hath not been so;

36. but we who have received the Law and sin perish together with our heart¹⁰ which accepted it. 37. Thy Law, however, perisheth not, but abideth in its glory.¹¹

The Vision of the Disconsolate Woman (IX. 38—X. 24)

38. And while I spake these things in my heart,¹² I lifted up mine eyes and beheld a woman on the

¹ Cf. Ps. l. 7.

² Omitted by other Versions.

³ Note the parallelism of the two lines; this is lost in L.

⁴ *And the fruit of the law did not perish, neither could it, for it was thine* (R.V. = L.).

⁵ ? repeated from next clause accidentally (see *E.A.*, p. 217).

⁶ L. + or drink (so other Versions, but Ethiop. doubtful).

⁷ L. [and when it cometh to pass that that which is sown], or that which is launched, or the things which have been received [come to an end], R.V. (bracketed clauses not in Syriac).

⁸ i. e. the things put in.

⁹ i. e. the receptacles.

¹⁰ Which is evil and perishable.

¹¹ Cf. Rom. vii. 14; 2 Cor. iii. 7 f.; and for the whole passage *Ap. Bar.* xiv. 19.

¹² i. e. according to the Hebrew idiom “thought these things.”

right side,¹ mourning and weeping with a loud voice, while she ²sighed in her soul ²[and was greatly distressed],³ and her clothes were rent, and dust was cast upon her head. 39. And I dismissed the thoughts which I was debating,⁴ and turned to her and said to her: 40. Why dost thou weep, and art distressed in thy soul? 41. And she answered and said to me: Suffer me, my lord, to weep unchecked⁵ and continue further to sigh, because my soul is greatly embittered and I am much humbled.⁶

42. And I said to her: Tell me what hath befallen thee. 43. And she answered and said to me: I, thine handmaid, was barren, and did not bear, though I was with my husband thirty years. 44. And I every day and every hour, during these thirty years, was petitioning and supplicating the Most High by day and by night. 45. And it came to pass after [these]⁷ thirty years

God heard [the voice of]⁸ thine handmaid, and saw her humiliation⁹; and looked upon my distress, and gave me a son.

And I rejoiced and delighted in him greatly, I and my husband and all my fellow townsfolk,¹⁰ and we glorified¹¹ the Mighty One¹²; 46. and I reared him with very great toil. 47. And when he was grown up I came to take him a wife, and I made a day of feasting [and much merriment].¹³

X. 1. And it came to pass that when my son entered into his wedding-chamber he fell down and

¹ Cf. iv. 47.

² I.. was much grieved in mind.

³ Omitted in L.

⁴ Lit. cogitating.

⁵ Lit. upon myself.

⁶ Or afflicted.

⁷ Omitted by other Versions.

⁸ This is probably the true text, though it is omitted by the other Versions.

⁹ Barrenness was a reproach; cf. Luke i. 25.

¹⁰ Lit. all the sons of my town.

¹¹ It was a religious duty to "give God the glory"; cf. Luke xvii. 18.

¹² i. e. the Almighty; cf. vi. 32, x. 24, xi. 43, xii. 47.

¹³ Added by Syriac; cf. Matt. xxii. 2.

died. 2. But I overturned the lights,¹ and all my fellow-townsman² rose up to console me; and I remained quiet until the next day and until the night.³ 3. ⁴ And after they were all asleep and believed that I also was asleep,⁴ then I arose by night, and fled and came as, [behold],⁵ thou seest to this field. 4. And I am resolved that I will not again enter the city, but that here I will be, and will neither eat nor drink, but will continually mourn and fast till I die.

5. And I dismissed⁶ my thoughts which I had been debating,⁷ and I answered in anger and said to her: 6. ⁸ Thou art more foolish, woman, than all women!⁸ Seest thou not our grief and what hath befallen us? 7. that [lo !]⁹ Sion, the mother of us¹⁰ all, is in great affliction, and humiliated with great humiliation? 8. But it is right now to mourn—¹¹ we all mourn; for thou indeed art grieved on account of one son, [but we—the whole world—on account of our mother].¹² 9. But ask the earth, and she shall tell thee; because¹³ she is bound to mourn . . . ,¹⁴ because many are they who have come into being¹⁵ upon her, 10. and from the beginning all who have come into being¹⁵ upon her, and the others who (are to) come, lo! they¹⁶ all go to perdition, and their multitude is for destruction. 11. Who then ought to mourn the more, she who hath lost all this multitude, or thou who mournest for one?

12. But if thou sayest to me: My mourning is not

¹ Cf. Matt. xxv. 7.

² See note¹⁰, ix. 45.

³ i. e. until the night of the next day.

⁴ R.V. *And it came to pass when they had all left off to comfort me to the end I might be quiet* (see *E.A.*, p. 221).

⁵ Added by Syriac.

⁶ Lit. *left*.

⁷ Lit. *cogitating*.

⁸ *Thou foolish woman above all other* (R.V. = L.).

⁹ Added by Syriac.

¹⁰ Cf. Gal. iv. 26.

¹¹ L. + *seeing that*.

¹² Added by Syriac.

¹³ L. (rightly) *that* (= *διτι* also *because*).

¹⁴ There is clearly a lacuna in the sense; Syriac omitted some words; L. + *the fall of so many*.

¹⁵ Lit. *have been*.

¹⁶ L. + *almost (pene)*.

like the earth's, because I have lost the fruit of my womb

which I bare with pains,
and reared¹ with sorrows—

13. the earth, however, according to the nature of the earth²: the multitude that came upon it is gone as it came: 14. then³ I will again say to thee: Just as thou hast borne with travail, so also the earth hath given her fruit from (the) beginning, man, to him who made her.⁴ 15. Now, therefore,

keep thy pain to thyself,⁵
and bear bravely⁶ the evil that hath befallen thee!

16. For if thou wilt acknowledge as just⁷ the decree of judgement of the Most High, thou shalt (again) receive thy son in (due) time,⁸ and shalt be praised among women. 17. Go, therefore, into the city unto thy husband.

18. And she answered and said to me: I will not do so, nor will I go into the city, nor unto my husband, but here will I die!

19. And I continued further to speak with her, and I said to her: 20. No, woman! No, woman! Do not do this thing, but

20. be convinced of⁹ Sion's misfortune,
and be consoled because of Jerusalem's sorrow!
21. For [behold!]¹⁰ thou hast seen
our sanctuaries¹¹ laid waste,¹²

¹ L. *brought forth*.

² i. e. as regards the earth, such (dying) is according to the course of nature (see *E.A.*, p. 224). ³ Lit. *and*.

⁴ i. e. man, earth's highest product, produced with so much pains, is constantly being gathered in (by death) by the Creator. This seems to be the meaning; cf. *E.A.*, p. 224.

⁵ Lit. *within thyself*.

⁶ *With strength*.

⁷ Cf. Ps. Sol., viii. 7, ii. 16; Luke vii. 29, 35 (an act of piety).

⁸ i. e. either by the son's restoration to life, or by having another son.

⁹ Or *prevailed on by*.

¹⁰ Added by Syriac.

¹¹ Other Versions have the singular.

¹² Syriac text *that they are laid waste* (in the same way prefixing *that* before each of the verbs throughout the following clauses); cf. 1 Macc. i. 39.

and our altars ¹ overthrown ;
 and our Temple demolished,
² and our service abolished ² ;
 22. and our song taken away, ³
 and our glorying ⁴ ceased ; ⁵
 and the light of our lamp quenched, ⁶
 and the ark of the covenant carried off ; ⁷
 and our saints ⁸ defiled,
 and the name that is called upon us ⁹ polluted ;
 and our nobles ¹⁰ dishonoured,
 and our priests burnt in the fire, ¹¹
 and our Levites taken captive ;
 and our virgins are defiled,
 and our wives forcibly dishonoured ;
¹² and our seers seized,
 and our watchmen scattered ¹² ;
 and our youths enslaved,
 and our heroes made weak :
 23. and what exceedeth all—with regard to Sion's
 seal, ¹³

¹ L. *altar*.

² L. *our psaltery is brought low* (cf. *Ethiop.*) : *psaltery* or *harp* a symbol of Temple service; *Syriac* interprets; cf. *E.A.*, p. 226.

³ L. *is silenced*.

⁴ Or *? hymning*; or *our pride*, i. e. the sacrificial service.

⁵ Lit. *fallen*.

⁶ This marked the cessation of the sacrificial service; cf. 1 *Macc.* iv. 50, and see *E.A.*, p. 226.

⁷ This really occurred at the destruction of the first Temple; for its meaning here cf. *E.A.*, p. 226 f.

⁸ L. *holy things* = the holy vessels.

⁹ i. e. the divinely bestowed name of Israel; cf. *Gen. xxxii.* 28.

¹⁰ i. e. the ruling classes.

¹¹ Cf. *Josephus, War*, VI. 5. 1. (two priests threw themselves into the fire " and were burnt together with the holy house").

¹² L. *our righteous men carried away, our little ones betrayed*; possibly the *Syriac* should be emended so as to read *our pious ones are seized, our righteous scattered* : see further *E.A.*, p. 228.

¹³ i. e. ? Sion's independence—possibly there is a reference to the issue of a national coinage in A.D. 66–70; cf. *E.A.*, p. 229 f.

the seal of her glory hath been taken away now,
and given up into the hand of them that hate
us !

24. Do thou, then, shake off from thyself¹ the
multitude of thy sorrows,
so that the Mighty One may be reconciled² to
thee,
and the Most High may give thee rest³ from the
sorrows of thy toil !³

**Sion's Glory ; the Vision of the Heavenly
Jerusalem (X. 25-28)**

25. And it came to pass, while I was talking with her, [and]⁴ lo ! her countenance shone exceedingly, and as the appearance of lightning became the look of her face.⁵ And I feared greatly [to approach unto her, and my heart was much amazed].⁶ And while I was cogitating what this [vision]⁷ might be, 26. suddenly she cried with a loud and fearful voice, so that the whole earth was moved at her voice.⁸ 27. And I saw, and lo ! the woman was no longer visible to me, but a City that was builded,⁹ and a place became visible as of great foundations.¹⁰ And I was afraid and cried with a loud voice and said, 28. Where is the angel Uriel who from the first day¹¹ came unto

¹ L. + *thy great heaviness and put away* (the words were accidentally omitted by the Syriac translator); see *E.A.*, p. 230.

² Or *propitious*.

³ L. *even ease from thy travails* (R.V.).

⁴ Omit.

⁵ Cf. Luke ix. 29.
⁶ So Ar.¹; the clause has been omitted (accidentally) by the Latin translator.

⁷ L. and Ethiop. omit.

⁸ Cf. Gen. xxvii. 34.

⁹ i. e. already built, so all the Oriental Versions; but L. *was being built* (cf. ver. 42, R.V.).

¹⁰ Cf. Rev. xxi. 19 f.

¹¹ L. *from the first* (so Ethiop. Ar.¹); cf. iv. 1 for the first appearance of Uriel.

me? Because he (it is) who hath caused me to come into the multitude of this agitation,¹
and mine end² is made corruption,³
and my prayer ignominy.

The Vision interpreted (X. 29-57)

29. And while I was speaking these things, [lying on the ground as though dead],⁴ the angel came unto me who had come unto me formerly⁵; and he saw me 30. lying on the ground as though dead,⁶ and my understanding was confused; and he took me by my right hand and strengthened⁷ me, and set me upon my feet,⁸ and said to me :

31. What aileth thee,

And why art thou disquieted?

And wherefore is thy mind confused,
and the understanding of thy heart?

32. And I said to him : Because thou hast forsaken me ! For I did as thou badest me (and) also (went out)⁹ into the field, and lo ! I have seen—and see¹⁰—that which I am unable to explain.¹¹

33. And he answered and said to me : Stand¹² upon thy feet,¹² and I will make known to¹³ thee.

34. And I said to him : Speak on, my Lord; and only do not forsake me lest I die¹⁴ before my time.¹⁴

¹ Cf. *Shepherd of Hermas*, *Vis.* I. ii. 1; *Vis.* III. i. 5.

² So all the Versions; perhaps the Hebrew text was corrupt and the word *prayer* stood originally here (*tēfillāhī* corrupted to *taklīthī* = *my end*).

³ Here also a Hebrew corruption may be suspected, *lēhebel* = “into vanity,” having been misread *lēhebel*.

⁴ Added by Syriac (? from next clause).

⁵ Or *at first*.

⁶ Cf. *Dan.* viii. 17 f., x. 9 f., 15; *Rev.* i. 17.

⁷ Cf. *Dan.* x. 18.

⁸ Cf. v. 15, vi. 13, 17.

⁹ Probably a word has fallen out of the Syriac text here.

¹⁰ The vision is still present to his mind’s eye.

¹¹ L. *to express*; cf. *2 Cor.* xii. 4.

¹² Cf. v. 15, vi. 13, 17, x. 30: L. and other versions *like a man*.

¹³ L. *advise*. ¹⁴ Ethiop. *suddenly* : L. *to no purpose*.

35. Because I have seen what I do not understand,¹
and hear what I am incompetent (to grasp).²

36. Or is it that my understanding deceiveth me,³
and my soul⁴ beholdeth a dream⁴?

37. But now I beseech thee, my Lord, make known
to thy servant concerning this fearful vision.⁵

38. And he answered and said to me:

Hear me and I will teach thee,
and reveal⁶ to thee concerning the things thou
art afraid of⁷;

because the Most High hath revealed to thee many
secrets.

39. For he hath seen thy right conduct,
how⁸ thou grievest much⁹ for thy people,
[and mournest much for thy people,]¹⁰
and mournest much for Sion.

40. This, then, is the matter¹¹: 41. The woman who
appeared to thee a little while ago, who was mourning
and whom thou didst begin to console, 42. and now
¹² she appeareth not as a woman to thee,¹² but hath
appeared to thee as a City that is being built¹³:
43. and whereas¹⁴ she told thee of the misfortune of
her son—this is the explanation: 44. This woman
whom thou hast seen, this is Sion which thou now
seest¹⁵ as a City being built.¹³ 45. And whereas¹⁴
she said to thee concerning herself that she had been
barren thirty years—(it is) because¹⁶ she was in the
world¹⁶ three thousand¹⁷ years when no offering was

¹ Or have not understood (known).

² Lit. (what) I am unversed (or unskilful) in.

³ L. is deceived. ⁴ L. dreameth. ⁵ L. this perplexity.

⁶ L. tell. ⁷ Cf. v. 32, vii. 49. ⁸ Lit. that.

⁹ So Ethiop.; L. continually.

¹⁰ Accidental repetition in the Syriac text.

¹¹ = οὗτος ἐστιν ὁ λόγος, “the matter is as follows.”

¹² L. thou seest the likeness of the woman no more.

¹³ Cf. L. (in building): the participle is used in Syr. = οἰκοδομημένη.

¹⁴ Lit. that.

¹⁵ In vision. The woman = Sion, i. e. the heavenly Jerusalem (see *E.A.*, pp. 232 ff.).

¹⁶ Probably originally “there were in the world,”

¹⁷ L. three (years); see *E.A.*, p. 237.

offered in her.¹ 46. And it came to pass after three thousand years² Solomon³ built the city and offered therein offerings: then it was that the barren bare a son.⁴ 47. And whereas she told thee that she reared him \dagger with labour \ddagger ,⁵ that is the dwelling of⁶ Jerusalem. 48. And whereas she said to thee: My son entered into his (marriage) chamber and died⁷—this (was) the fall [and misfortune]⁸ of Jerusalem. 49. And [whereas]⁹ thou hast seen her likeness,¹⁰ how that she mourneth for her sons,¹¹ and thou didst begin to console her for what had befallen her¹²—

50. And now the Most High hath seen
that thou art grieved with all thy soul,
and with all thy heart sorrowest on her account:
And he hath shewn thee the light of her glory,
and the beauty of her loveliness.

51. Therefore I bade thee await me¹³ in the field
where no house hath been builded; 52. for I knew

¹ Perhaps *in it* (the world) is the right text (see *E.A.*, p. 237)—*in her* can only mean “in the heavenly Sion”; the earthly Jerusalem (= the “son” here) only became the Holy City when David instituted the sacrificial cultus in it; cf. iii. 24.

² The 3000 years apparently represents the interval of time from the Creation to the founding of the Temple, according to the Hebrew text; see *E.A.*, p. 238.

³ According to iii. 24, David was the founder of the Holy City; perhaps *David* should be read here (see *E.A.*, p. 238).

⁴ *i. e.* the earthly Jerusalem probably.

⁵ So read (slightly emending text); text has *world*.

⁶ *i. e.* probably the Divine Presence (Shekinah) in the Temple, which was constantly interrupted by sin.

⁷ L. \dagger and that misfortune befell her (so Ar.¹; cf. also *Ethiop.*).

⁸ Added by Syriac (?) part of the omitted previous clause). Note that the death of the son = the fall of the earthly Jerusalem (*i. e.* the son = the earthly Jerusalem).

⁹ Lit. *that*; perhaps to be omitted, otherwise the sentence has no conclusion.

¹⁰ *i. e.* probably the heavenly pattern of Sion (the heavenly Jerusalem); cf. *Heb.* xi. 10, 16, xii. 22, xiii. 14.

¹¹ So *Ethiop.*, but the other Versions rightly *son*.

¹² A gloss in L. (some MSS.) adds *these were the things to be opened unto thee*; the other Versions omit.

¹³ L. *remain*,

that the Most High was about to reveal all these things to thee. [53. Therefore I bade thee come into a place¹ where no foundation of a building is; 54. for no work² of man could remain in the place where the City of the Most High was about to be revealed.]³ 55. But be not thou afraid, and let not thy heart be disquieted, but go in and see⁴ the light of the glory⁴ and the vastness of her building, as far as the sight of thine eyes alloweth⁵ thee to see; 56. and afterwards thou shalt hear as far as the hearing of thine ears alloweth⁵ thee to hear.⁶

57. For thou art blessed above many,
and art named⁷ before the Most High as (but)
few!⁸

Transition to the Fifth Vision (X. 58-59)

58. But on the night of to-morrow thou shalt remain here⁹; 59. and the Most High will shew thee¹⁰ a vision of those revelations¹⁰ which the Most High will do to the inhabitants of the earth in the last days.

¹ L. *the field*.

² L. *building-work*.

³ Vers. 51-52 and 53-54 are doublets apparently, though all the Versions attest them; see *E.A.*, p. 241.

⁴ L. *the brightness*.

⁵ Lit. sufficeth.

⁶ The seer saw and heard much more than is recorded; this implies a real experience: note that the City is regarded as still standing before the seer: with vers. 55-56 cf. 1 Cor. ii. 9.

⁷ i. e. singled out by name for special honour.

⁸ The true sequel appears to be contained in xii. 39b, xiii. 57-58 and xii. 40-48 (see *E.A.*, p. 242).

⁹ i. e. in the field of Ardat.

¹⁰ L. *those visions in dreams* (i. e. dream-visions); cf. *Ethiop.*; the sense seems to require *in dream-visions*.

VISION V

(THE EAGLE VISION)¹ (X. 60—XII. 51)

The Vision (X. 60—XII. 3a)

60. And I slept there² the next night as he commanded me.

XI. 1. And it came to pass in the second night I saw a vision³: and lo! there came up out of the sea⁴ an eagle⁵ [that (was) very large in its size],⁶ and he had twelve wings⁷ and three heads.⁸ 2. And I saw, and lo! he spread his wings in⁹ the whole earth, and all the winds of heaven blew on him,¹⁰ and the clouds gathered together unto him. 3. And I saw that from his wings were born¹¹ wings small and little and petty.¹¹ 4. But his heads were at rest; but the middle head was greater than these others; and yet it also was resting with them. 5. And I saw,

¹ This famous vision is directed against the Roman Empire symbolized by the Eagle.

² L. *† that night and*.

³ L. *dream* (*Ethiop. in a dream*); a dream-vision is meant.

⁴ Cf. Dan. vii. 3; Rev. xiii. 1.

⁵ The eagle is a specially appropriate symbol of the Roman Empire whose military emblem was the eagle.

⁶ Absent from other Versions.

⁷ So all the Versions except L., which has *feathered wings*. For the significance of these cf. *E. A.*, p. 261 f.

⁸ *i. e.* in the original form of the vision the three Flavian Emperors, Vespasian, Titus and Domitian.

⁹ So L. and *Ethiop.*; but Ar.² *Arm. over.*

¹⁰ Cf. xiii. 3.

¹¹ L. *anti-wings and they became wings petty and small*: other Versions *little wings* for *anti-wings*; apparently usurpers or military rivals of the Emperors are meant whose activity was short-lived.

and lo ! the eagle commanded¹ his wings to reign over the whole earth and over the inhabitants thereof. 6. And I saw how there became subject to him everything beneath the heavens, and not one thing resisted² him of the creatures upon the earth. 7. And I saw, and lo ! the eagle rose upon his talons, and emitted the voice³ to his wings, and said to them : [Go, rule over the whole earth ! 8. But now rest ye],⁴ and do not all wake⁵ at once, but sleep each one of you in his place, and wake⁵ by times ;⁶ 9. but let the heads be preserved for the last ! 10. And I saw that his voice did not proceed from his heads, but from the midst of his body. 11. And I numbered his little wings,⁷ and they [also]⁸ were eight. 12. And I saw, and lo ! there arose on the right side⁹ one wing¹⁰ and reigned over the whole earth. 13. And I saw¹¹ that its end came and it was destroyed,¹² so that even its place was not known.¹³ And [I saw, and lo !]¹⁴ the second wing¹⁵ arose, and it also ruled over the whole earth a long time ; 14. and it came to pass when it had reigned, its end came that it should be destroyed,¹² as the first. 15. And lo ! a voice was heard which said to it : 16. Hear thou who for the whole of this time hast held the earth ; this [message]¹⁶ I announce to thee before thou shalt be destroyed¹² : 17. None of those

¹ L. *flew with* (rightly).

² Or *gainsaid*.

³ i. e. uttered his voice (a Hebraism).

⁴ Absent from the other Versions.

⁵ Or *watch* : each wing (a pair of wings) is to be active for a limited time, and in succession.

⁶ i. e. for successive limited periods.

⁷ L. *anti-wings*.

⁸ Added by Syriac ; L. *lo !* ⁹ See *E.A.*, p. 252.

¹⁰ Perhaps originally *one from the pairs of wings* : see *E.A.*, p. 252.

¹¹ L. *and it came to pass* (cf. the other Versions).

¹² = ἀφανίζεσθαι ; L. *appeared no more* (R.V.).

¹³ L. and other versions *appeared no more* (was not visible).

¹⁴ Absent from the other Versions.

¹⁵ = probably Augustus (the first wing or pair of wings = Julius Cæsar).

¹⁶ Added by Syriac.

who (shall be) after thee shall hold (rule) as¹ the whole of this time,² yea, not as¹ the half of it!³ 18. And [I saw, and lo!]⁴ the third wing arose and ruled, it also as⁵ its former companions,⁵ [over the whole earth]⁶; and it also was destroyed⁷ [as the preceding].⁶ 19. And so it happened to all the wings that⁸ each one of them⁸ ruled and again were destroyed.⁷ 20. And I saw, and lo! in time the little wings also arose on the right side, so that they might hold (rule over) [the earth],⁹ and some of them held (rule), but were destroyed⁷ suddenly: 21. and some of them arose, but did not hold the rule. 22. And I saw after this that his¹⁰ twelve wings were destroyed,⁷ and (also) two of the little wings; 23. and there was left nothing of the eagle's body save only the three heads that were at rest and six little wings. 24. And I saw, and lo! from the little wings two wings separated themselves, and¹¹ went and rose up¹¹ under the head¹² that was upon the right side; but four remained in their place. 25. And I saw, and lo! these¹³ four little wings¹³ thought to rise up and to hold the rule. 26. And I saw, and lo! one rose up¹⁴ but immediately was destroyed;⁷ 27. and again the second,¹⁵ but it also was immediately destroyed⁷ (more quickly)¹⁶ than the first. 28. And I saw, and lo! the two¹⁷ that remained of them

¹ = "anything like."

² L. *thy time* only (for *as the whole of this time*).

³ The long reign of Augustus fits this description.

⁴ Absent from the other Versions.

⁵ L. *the former* (cf. Ethiop.).

⁶ Absent in L. and the other Versions.

⁷ See note¹² to ver. 13 above.

⁸ L. *one by one*.

⁹ Added by Syriac.

¹⁰ L. *the*.

¹¹ L. *remained*; so Ethiop.

¹² i. e. probably, according to the original meaning of the vision, Domitian: who are represented by the two little wings it is difficult to say; see *E.A.*, p. 255, for suggestions.

¹³ L. *under-wings*.

¹⁴ ? Galba.

¹⁵ ? Piso or Otho.

¹⁶ The comparative has accidentally fallen out of the Syriac text.

¹⁷ ? Civilis and Vitellius.

thought [of them]¹ that they also should hold the principate²; 29. and while they were thinking [to rule over the earth, I saw, and] ³ lo ! one of the heads which were at rest, the middle one,⁴ awoke; and it was greater than the two other heads. 30. [. . .]⁵ the two ⁶ of them⁶ with itself; 31. and ⁷ with the two, that were with it, it turned and devoured the two little wings⁸ which thought to reign. 32. But this head held (rule over) all the earth, and oppressed⁹ its inhabitants with much hardship, and wielded power¹⁰ over the inhabited world¹¹ more than all the wings that had been. 33. And after this I saw, and lo ! suddenly¹² the middle head was destroyed,¹³ it also even as the twings†.¹⁴ 34. But there remained two heads, (which) also ruled over the whole earth, and over its inhabitants. 35. And I saw, and lo ! the head which was upon the right side devoured that upon the left.¹⁵ 36. And I heard a voice which said to me : Look in front of thee, [Ezra],¹⁶ and see,¹⁷ what thou seest [(at) the end] !¹⁸ 37. And I saw, and lo ! as it were a lion that was roused out of the wood, [crying and]¹⁸ roaring. And I heard how he uttered a man's voice to¹⁹ the eagle, and spake and said to him : 38. Hear, [thou eagle],¹⁸ and I will talk²⁰ to thee : The Most High saith to thee : 39. Art thou not it that art left of the

¹ Accidentally repeated from the previous clause.

² L. (cf. Ethiop.) *to reign*.

³ Absent in L. and the other Versions.

⁴ ? Vespasian.

⁵ There is something missing here in the Syriac; L. and I beheld how it allied.

⁶ L. heads. ⁷ L. + and lo ! the head. ⁸ L. under-wings.

⁹ Lit. humbled. ¹⁰ Or prevailed. ¹¹ = ἡ οἰκουμένη.

¹² So L.; other Versions omit.

¹³ See note¹² on ver. 13 above.

¹⁴ Syr. text has *wing*.

¹⁵ i. e. Domitian (the right head) compassed the death of Titus (the left head), as was popularly supposed at the time : see *E.A.*, p. 157.

¹⁶ Absent from the other Versions.

¹⁷ L. consider. ¹⁸ Peculiar to the Syriac.

¹⁹ Or against. ²⁰ Lit. say.

four beasts¹ which I had made to reign over my world, and that through them the end of the² times might come? 40. Thou, however, the fourth, art come, and hast overcome all the beasts who are past;

and thou hast wielded power over the world with great hardship,³

and over the whole inhabited earth with⁴ bitter violence⁴;

and thou hast dwelt in the inhabited earth full long with fraud,

and hast judged the earth, (but) not with truth.

42. For thou hast⁵ plundered and robbed⁵ the humble and true,⁶
and evil entreated the meek⁷;
and hast hated the upright,⁸
and loved the deceitful⁹;
and hast overthrown the strongholds of such as were flourishing,¹⁰
and laid low the walls of those who did thee no harm—

43. And (so) thine insolence¹¹ hath ascended unto the Most High,

and . . .¹² unto the Mighty One.

44. And the Most High regarded his times,
and lo! they were ended¹³;
and his æons¹⁴ were fulfilled.¹⁵

¹ Cf. Dan. vii. 3; the eagle is identified with the fourth beast of Dan. vii.

² L. *my.*

³ L. *terror (trembling).*

⁴ L. *grievous oppression.*

⁶ L. *meek.*

⁵ L. *hast afflicted.*

⁷ L. *quiet (or peaceable).*

⁸ L. *them that speak truth.*

⁹ Or *liars* (? an allusion to Jewish informers).

¹⁰ L. *them that were fruitful (i. e. prosperous).*

¹¹ Or *insult.*

¹² A word has fallen out accidentally in the Syriac; L. *thy pride*: cf. for the whole ver. Isa. xxx. 29.

¹³ The predetermined end has come.

¹⁴ = the word usually rendered *world* (*aiāv*).

¹⁵ Cf. Gal. iv. 4.

45. Therefore shalt thou be utterly destroyed,¹ thou eagle,
 and thy highest ² wings,
 and thy ³ little and evil wings,³
 and thy bitter ⁴ heads,
 and thy evil talons,
 and thy whole ⁵ hateful and evil ⁵ body ;
 46. so that the whole earth may be rested and relieved now that she hath been freed from ⁶ violence, that she may hope for the judgement ⁷ and the mercy of her Maker.

XII. 1. And it came to pass when the lion had spoken these words unto the eagle, 2. I saw, and lo ! the head that was left was destroyed ¹ [suddenly].⁸ And then the two wings ⁹ which went over unto it rose up in order to reign ; and their principate had an end ¹⁰ and was full of uproar. 3a. And I saw that these also were destroyed ¹ and the whole body of the eagle was burnt ; and the earth was greatly amazed.

The Interpretation of the Vision (XII. 3b-39)

3b. But I from great agitation ¹¹ and much fear awoke, and said to my spirit : 4. Thou hast wrought all these things unto me because thou searchest out the ways of the Most High !

5. And lo ! I am ¹² enfeebled in my soul,¹² and my spirit ¹³ is much diminished, nor is there left in me the least ¹⁴ strength because

¹ L. *appear no more* (cf. note on xi. 13 above).

² As opposed to the *little wings* = L. *horrible*.

³ L. *little wings most evil.* ⁴ L. *cruel.*

⁵ L. *vain* (or *worthless*). ⁶ L. + *thy*.

⁷ Here *judgement* means the judicial process by which the Roman Empire is destroyed, not the judgement of the last day.

⁸ Absent in the other Versions.

⁹ So all the Versions (we should expect *little wings*).

¹⁰ L. *was short.* ¹¹ L. + *of mind* : cf. x. 28.

¹² L. *yet weary in my mind.* ¹³ L. *in my spirit.*

¹⁴ Lit. *not even a little.*

of the great fear which I have experienced¹ in this night. 6. And now I will petition the Most High, and he will² strengthen me unto the end. 7. And I said : O Lord, my Lord, if I have found favour in thy sight, and if³ in truth I have blessing (laid up)³ with thee above many, and if in very deed⁴ my prayer hath ascended before [the majesty of]⁵ thy countenance—8. strengthen me and make known to me, thy servant, the interpretation and explanation of this⁶ vision that I have seen,⁶ in order that thou mayest completely⁷ comfort my soul ! 9. For hast thou not counted me worthy to reveal to me the consummation of the times and the end of the periods ?⁸

10. And he answered and said to me : This is the interpretation of the vision that thou hast seen : 11. The eagle whom thou sawest come up from the sea—this is the fourth kingdom which appeared in vision to thy brother Daniel⁹; 12. but it was not interpreted to him as I interpret (it) to thee now, 10 or as I have interpreted (it) to thee.¹⁰

13. Behold the days come when a kingdom shall arise upon the earth, and it shall be more terrible than all the kingdoms which have been before it. 14. And twelve kings shall reign in it, one after another,¹¹ 15. But the second,¹² when he shall reign, shall hold (the rule) a longer time than (any of)

¹ Lit. *feared*. ² L. *that he may*. ³ L. *I am justified*.

⁴ Lit. *in truth* (but a different word from that used in the previous part of the verse).

⁵ Absent from the other Versions; cf. vi. 32.

⁶ L. *fearful vision* (so Ethiop. Ar.¹) : *that I have seen* is probably a corruption in Syriac of *fearful*.

⁷ This implies that partial consolation had already been given (in the vision of the heavenly Sion); see *E.A.*, p. 267.

⁸ See *E.A.*, p. 267 f.

⁹ Cf. Dan. vii. 7 f. This is an interesting case of re-interpretation of prophecy ; see *E.A.*, p. 268.

¹⁰ ? an ancient gloss.

¹¹ i. e. apparently the “ twelve Cæsars,” according to the later (not the original) meaning of the vision ; see *E.A.*, p. 268.

¹² i. e. Augustus.

the twelve. 16. This is the interpretation of the twelve wings which thou hast seen. 17. And whereas thou didst see¹ a voice which spake and did not emerge from the head² of the eagle, but from the midst of his body, this is the meaning³: 18. (because)⁴ in the midst of the time⁵ of that kingdom there shall be⁶ many divisions,⁶ and it shall be in danger⁷ of falling; and it shall not fall then, but shall be re-established to its⁸ former rule.⁸ 19. And whereas thou didst see eight little wings⁹ grow under his wings, this is the meaning³: 20. for there shall arise in it eight kings whose times shall be swift and whose periods hurried: 21. and two¹⁰ of them shall perish when¹¹ the time shall come that divideth,¹¹ and four shall be kept for the time when its time cometh to be ended¹²; but two shall be kept for the consummation. 22. And whereas thou didst see in him three heads resting, this is the meaning³: 23. at the end of the times the Most High will arouse three kings¹³; and they shall renew many things therein, and shall grind¹⁴ the earth 24. and its inhabitants with much hardship, more than all those that were before them. Therefore are they called the heads of the eagle; 25. for these are they who shall renew¹⁵ his wickedness, and they shall consummate his end.

¹ So Ethiop. Ar.¹, but L. Arm. *hear*.

² So Ethiop. Ar.¹, but L. *heads*.

³ = οὗτοις ἔστιν δὲ λόγος; cf. x. 40.

⁴ οὗτι (mistranslated)—here = *that*.

⁵ i. e. between Nero and Vespasian.

⁶ L. *no small contentions*: Ethiop. *much uproar*.

⁷ = κινδυνεύσει.

⁸ L. *to its beginning* (= εἰς τὴν ἀρχὴν αὐτῆς), misunderstanding Greek;

⁹ L. *under-wings*.

¹⁰ i. e. in the last days of Nero; ? Vindex and Nymphidius (see *E.A.*, p. 270).

¹¹ L. *the middle time approacheth*.

¹² Cf. *E.A.*, p. 270.

¹³ So all the Versions except L. which has *three kingdoms*.

¹⁴ Or *oppress*: L. *bear rule over*.

¹⁵ = ἀνακαινώσοντις; L. *bring to a head* = ἀνατεφαλαιώσοντις, which is right (Syriac misread); see *E.A.*, p. 271.

26. And whereas thou didst see one great head destroyed¹—(it is) because² only³ one of them shall die upon his bed, but he also tormented⁴; 27. but as for the two who are left, the sword shall devour them; 28. because the sword of the one⁵ shall devour his companion⁶; nevertheless he also shall fall by the sword at the end.⁷ 29. And whereas thou didst see two wings⁸ go over unto the head on the right side, this is the meaning⁹: 30. These are they whom the Most High hath set apart for his¹⁰ end, and their kingdom shall¹¹ have an end,¹¹ and it shall be full of uproar, as thou hast seen. 31. And that thou didst see the lion that was roused out of the wood, crying and roaring and speaking to the eagle, and (that) he was reproving him for his iniquity, and all the¹² words,¹³ as thou hast heard: 32. this is the¹⁴ Messiah whom the Most High hath kept for the consummation of the days, who shall spring from the seed of David,¹⁴ and shall come and speak with them;

and he shall reprove them for their ungodliness, and for their baseness admonish¹⁵ them,
and set in order¹⁶ before them their iniquity.

33. For he shall station them¹⁷ before me¹⁷ in their judgement,¹⁸ alive; and it shall be when he rebuketh

¹ Cf. note on xi. 13 above.

² = δτι introducing direct speech (misunderstood by the Syriac translator).

³ Cf. Ethiop.; L. omits.

⁴ ? Trajan (according to the later interpretation of the vision); see *E.A.*, p. 271 f.

⁵ ? Hadrian.

⁶ ? Lusius Quietus (see *E.A.*, p. 272).

⁷ This seems to be pure prediction.

⁸ L. *under-wings.* ⁹ Cf. note³ on ver. 17 above.

¹⁰ i. e. the eagle's. ¹¹ L. *be short.* ¹² L. *his.*

¹³ = λόγων which may = *deeds* here; see *E.A.*, p. 272.

¹⁴ Messiah . . . from seed of David: cf. Rev. v. 5; for the mixed representation (pre-existent yet born) cf. *E.A.*, p. 273; for the lacuna in L. of this verse cf. R.V.

¹⁵ Or *correct.*

¹⁶ = ἐπιτάξει = L. (*in fulcet*) = ἐπιπλήξει; see *E.A.*, p. 273.

¹⁷ Or *first* (different points) which = L.

¹⁸ L. *in judgement.*

them, then he shall destroy them.¹ 34. But my people who have been left he shall deliver in mercy, (even) them who have remained² within my borders³; and he shall make them joyful until the consummation of⁴ the Day of Judgement cometh concerning which I have spoken with thee previously.⁵ 35. This is the vision⁶ thou hast seen, and this is its interpretation. 36. And thou alone hast been found worthy to have knowledge of the mystery of the Most High. 37. Write therefore in a book all these things that thou hast seen, and put them in a hidden place⁷; 38. and teach them to the wise of thy people,⁸ (even to them) whose hearts thou knowest are able, comprehending,⁹ to keep these mysteries.

39a. But do thou endure here yet seven days more, that there may be revealed to thee what the Most High willeth to reveal to thee !

Conclusion of the Vision (XII. 39b-48)

39b. And he departed from me.

40. And it came to pass when¹⁰ the people saw¹¹ that seven days were past, and I not come¹² into the city, all the people gathered themselves together, from the small unto the great, [and arose]¹³ and came unto me and answered and said to me :

41. how¹⁴ have we sinned against thee,
or what evil have we done to thee,
that thou hast forsaken us and sittest in this place ?

¹ The godless are first rebuked, and then destroyed; see *E.A.*, p. 274.

² L. *been saved.*

³ i. e. within the Holy Land.

⁴ L. *even.*

⁵ Or *from the first.*

⁶ L. *dream*: cf. xi. 1.

⁷ Cf. Dan. xii. 4, 9; 1 Enoch lxxxii. 1, civ. 11-13, and in our Book xiv. 26, 47; see *E.A.*, p. 275.

⁸ i. e. for the circle of the initiated; the esoteric tradition was preserved in secret.

⁹ L. *to comprehend and.*

¹⁰ L. + *all.*

¹¹ L. *heard.*

¹² L. *returned.*

¹³ Absent from L.

¹⁴ Lit. *what.*

42. For thou ¹ art left to us of all the prophets
 as a cluster out of the vintage,²
 and as a light ³ in a dark place,⁴
 and as a haven of life to a ship when it
 standeth in a storm.

43. Or are not the evils that have befallen us
 sufficient [but that thou also shouldest forsake us]⁵?

44. But if thou forsake us, it had been well for us
 if we also had been consumed in the burning of Sion!

45. For we are not better than those who perished
 there. And I ⁶ wept with a loud voice.⁷ 46. And I
 answered and said to them :

Be of good cheer, Israel,
 and be not sorrowful, House of Jacob.

47. For your remembrance is ⁸ with the Most High,
 and the Mighty One doth ⁹ not forget you for
 ever.

48. But I have not forsaken you, and will not forsake ¹⁰
 you, but I have come to this place
 to pray for the devastation of Sion,
 and to ask mercy for our ¹¹ Sanctuary's humilia-
 tion.

Transition to the Sixth Vision (XII. 49-51)

49. And now go ye every one to his own house and I
 will come unto you ¹² after these days.¹² 50. And the
 people went into the city as I had bidden them.
 51. But I sat in the field ¹³ seven days as he had
 commanded me; and I ate of the flowers of the field
 only, and of the herbs was my food in those days.

¹ Ethiop. and some MSS. of L. + *alone* (but best MSS. of L. omit).

² Cf. ix. 21; Isa. xvii. 6, xxiv. 13.

³ Or *lamp*.

⁴ Cf. 2 Pet. i. 19 (? a citation from our passage).

⁵ This clause has accidentally dropped out of L.

⁶ So Ar.¹, but L., Ethiop., Ar.² have rightly *they* (Greek *Ἐκλαυον* can be translated either way).

⁷ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* xxxii. 8.

⁸ Cf. *E.A.*, p. 279.

⁹ L. *hath not forgotten*.

¹⁰ L. *depart from*, so Ethiop. Ar.¹

¹¹ L. *your*.

¹² Viz. those mentioned in xii. 39.

¹³ i. e. of Ardat (cf. ch. ix.).

VISION VI

(THE MAN FROM THE SEA) (XIII. 1-58)

The Vision (XIII. 1-13a)

XIII. 1. And it came to pass after seven days, and
¹ I saw a vision¹ in the night : 2. and lo ! a great² wind arose in³ the sea, so that it stirred all its waves.
3. And I saw, ⁴[and lo !] ⁴this man flew with the clouds of heaven⁵; and wherever he turned his face to look [and see]⁶ everything⁷ before his look⁷ trembled ;
4. and whithersoever the voice of his mouth went out, all who heard his voice melted away as wax melteth when⁸ the fire causeth it to smell.⁸ 5. And after this I saw, and lo ! there were gathered together a multitude of men innumerable, from the four winds of heaven to fight with the Man who came up out of the sea. 6. And I saw that he cut out for himself a lofty⁹ mountain and flew [and stood]¹⁰ upon it.¹¹ 7. But I sought to see the region or place whence the mountain had been cut out, but could not. 8. And after this I saw, and lo ! all who were gathered together to fight with him were in great fear, but yet

¹ L. *I dreamed a dream* ; cf. xi. 1.

² *i. e.* violent ; L. omits.

³ L. *from*.

⁴ The bracketed words have been omitted in L. by homoioteleuton.

⁵ Cf. Dan. vii. 13. ⁶ Absent from the other Versions.

⁷ L. *seen under him*.

⁸ L. *it feeleth the fire* ; for the figure cf. Mic. i. 4; Ps. xcvi. 5; 1 Enoch i. 6 (of Theophanies).

⁹ L. *great*.

¹⁰ Absent from the other Versions.

¹¹ Cf. (for the verse) Dan. ii. 45.

they dared to fight. 9. And when he saw the violence¹ [of the coming]² of their multitude that came, he did not lift up his hand, neither did he hold spear nor any of all the weapons of war; 10. but I saw how he sent out of his mouth only as it were waves³ of fire, and out of his lips a breath of flame, and he was shooting forth⁴ glowing coals of storm.⁴ 11. And these were all mingled together—the waves of fire, and the breath of flame, and the mass⁵ of the storm; and they fell upon the violence¹ [of the coming]² of⁶ that multitudinous people⁶ that was prepared to fight, and burned them all up, so that suddenly nothing was visible of that multitude of men without number save only dust of ashes and smell of smoke. And I saw and was amazed.

12. And after this I saw that Man come down from the mountain, and he called unto him another multitude of men that was peaceable.⁷ 13a. And there drew nigh unto him the likeness⁸ of many men; but some of them were glad, and some sad; and some of them were bound,⁹ and some brought those who were to be offered.¹⁰

The Apocalypticist reflects on the Vision (XIII. 13b-24)

13b. But I through great agitation awoke; and I petitioned the Most High and said: 14. Thou from

¹ = *τὴν ὀρμήν* (*the assault*).

² This appears to be redundant (see other Versions).

³ R.V. *flood*.

⁴ L. (corrected text) *a storm of sparks*: the whole picture is based on Isa. xi. 4; cf. Ps. Sol. xvii. 27; 1 Enoch Ixii. 2; see *E.A.*, p. 288 f.

⁵ So L.: we should expect the same term here as that used at the end of ver. 10 (*coals* or *sparks*); see *E.A.*, p. 289.

⁶ L. *the multitude*.

⁷ i. e. Messiah's subjects who are gathered after the destruction of his enemies; cf. Ps. Sol. xvii. 27 f., and see *E.A.*, p. 289.

⁸ L. *faces*.

⁹ Heathen captives.

¹⁰ Returning Jewish exiles brought by the heathen as an oblation; cf. *E.A.*, p. 290.

the beginning hast shewn thy servant these wonders, and [while I am not worthy]¹ thou hast esteemed me (worthy) to receive my petition²: 15. and now reveal to me further the interpretation of this vision³! 16. For as I think in my mind⁴: woe to those who are left in those days, and yet much more woe to those who are not left! 17. Because (they) who are not left shall be grieved 18. over⁵ that which is reserved for those who are left in the last days, but they do not attain thereto.

19. To those also who survive therefore woe! For they must see great perils with many distresses, as these visions⁶ shew. 20. But yet it is expedient⁷ that one should stand in peril and come into these things than that he should pass away as a cloud from the world and not see what happeneth at the consummation of the times.

21. And he answered and said to me: I will both tell thee the interpretation of thy vision, and also will reveal⁸ to thee concerning those about whom thou hast spoken. 22. Whereas thou hast spoken concerning those who survive [and concerning those who do not survive]⁹—this is the meaning¹⁰:

23. He that endureth¹¹ danger in that time, he shall keep those who lie in danger, even such as have¹² works and faith¹³ towards [the Most High and]¹⁴ Mighty One. 24. See,¹⁵ therefore, that more blessing is given to those who shall have survived than to those who have died.

¹ Absent from other Versions—the Syriac text may here be out of order.

² Cf. ix. 24, 25.

³ L. *dream*.

⁴ Notice the reflective tone of vers. 16–20, and cf. E.A., p. 291.

⁵ L. *knowing as they do*.

⁶ L. *dreams*.

⁷ L. *easier*.

⁸ L. *open*.

⁹ So Ar.¹ (cf. Ethiop), but L. accidentally omits.

¹⁰ Cf. xii. 17 note.

¹¹ A misrendering by the Syriac; L. rightly *he that bringeth the danger*, i. e. the Messiah.

¹² Cf. viii. 33, ix. 7.

¹⁴ L. *know*,

¹³ Accidentally omitted by L.

The Interpretation of the Vision (XIII. 25-53a)

25. But this is the interpretation ¹ of thy ² vision : Whereas thou didst see a Man coming up from the heart of the sea— 26. he it is whom the Most High is keeping for long ages,³ through whom ⁴ he will deliver his creation ; and he shall bring through ⁵ those who are left. 27. And whereas thou didst see that from his mouth there issued ⁶ a breath of fire and of storm,⁶ 28. and that he did not hold [in his hand]⁷ spear or warlike weapon, and destroyed the ⁸ massed coming ⁸ of that gathering which came to wage war with him—this is the meaning ⁹ :

29. Behold the days come, when the Most High [†] is about [†] ¹⁰ to deliver them that are upon the earth, 30. great horror shall come upon the inhabitants of the earth. 31. And they shall plan to fight one with another, city with city, and place with place, and people with people, and kingdom with kingdom.¹¹ 32. And it shall be when these ¹² signs shall come to pass, of which I have previously told thee,¹³ then shall my Son be revealed ¹⁴ whom thou sawest as a man coming up. 33. And when all the peoples hear his voice they shall leave every one of them his place and the warfare which is among them ¹⁵ ; 34. and there

¹ So all the Versions except L., which has *these are the interpretations.*

² L. *the.*

³ Lit. *for many times* : the reference is to the heavenly pre-existent Messiah (the *Son of Man* of i Enoch xxxvi.-lxx.).

⁴ i. e. through the Messiah ; but L. *which by his own self* (i. e. the Most High himself) ; cf. E.A., p. 293.

⁵ L. *order* (= διάρθρη) ; Syriac may have read διάρχη.

⁶ L. *wind and fire and storm.*

⁷ L. omits.

⁸ Lit. *mass of the coming* : L. *assault.*

⁹ Cf. xii. 17 note.

¹⁰ So read (*dē'āthid*) ; Syriac text *will make* ; Versions support correction.

¹¹ Cf. Isa. xix. 2 ; Matt. xxiv. 7.

¹² L. + *things shall happen and the.*

¹⁴ Cf. vii. 28.

¹³ Cf. ix. 1.

¹⁵ L. *they have one against another.*

shall be gathered together men without number,¹ as thou didst see that they desired to come and wage war with that Man. 35. But he will stand upon the top of Mount Sion²; 36. and Sion shall come and be revealed to all, prepared and builded,³ as thou didst see the mountain that was cut out without hands. 37. But he, my Son, shall reprove those peoples who are come for their ungodliness, which things⁴ are like unto a storm; 38. and shall set in order⁵ before them their wicked deeds and the torment wherewith they are destined to be tormented; but after this he⁶ that was likened to a flame⁶ shall destroy them⁷ without labour by the Law⁸ of him who⁸ hath been likened unto fire.

39. And whereas⁹ he summoned and gathered unto himself another¹⁰ multitudinous mass¹⁰ that was peaceable¹¹: 40. these are the nine and a half tribes,¹² which were led captive out of their land in the days of Josiah¹³ the King, which (tribes) Salmanassar¹⁴ the King of the Assyrians led captive, and brought them to the other side of the River [Euphrates]¹⁵; and they were led captive to another land. 41. For

¹ i. e. the heathen hosts arrayed against the people of God and led by Gog and Magog; the battle of Armageddon; cf. Ezek. xxxviii.-ix.; Rev. xvi. 16, and see *E.A.*, p. 294 f.

² Here identified with the mountain cut out without hands; cf. Ps. ii. 6, and see *E.A.*, p. 295.

³ i. e. the heavenly Sion (in the previous verse the earthly Sion is meant).

⁴ i. e. the rebukes.

⁵ Cf. xii. 32 note.

⁶ This clause is misplaced in Syriac; it should come at end of previous verse (*which were likened*, etc.); cf. L.

⁷ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* lxxii. 2 f.; apparently all the heathen are included in this multitude; see *E.A.*, p. 296.

⁸ L. *that* (i. e. the Law, not the Lawgiver, is compared to fire).

⁹ L. + *thou didst see that.*

¹¹ Lit. of *peace*.

¹⁰ L. *multitude*.

¹² So other Oriental Versions; but L. *ten*: see *E.A.*, p. 296.

¹³ A historical error: Hoshea was the name of the King (cf. 2 Kings xvii.).

¹⁴ Syr. text *Salbanassar* (same mistake in text of *Ap. Bar.* lxxii. 6).

¹⁵ Absent from other Versions.

they [had deliberated among themselves and] ¹ had taken this counsel that they would leave the multitude of the peoples and go to an inner ² region where never the race of men had dwelt, ⁴² that there also they might keep their Law which they had not kept in their own land. ⁴³ And they entered in through the narrow passages of the Euphrates. ⁴⁴ For the Most High then wrought marvels ³ for them; for he held back the sources ⁴ of the River until they had all passed over,⁵ ⁴⁵ that they might proceed [†]to the dry land[†].⁶ It was a great way to go, a journey of a year and a half; and that region was called Arsaph,⁷ [(at) the end of the world.]⁸ ⁴⁶ And they have dwelt there until the last time. And then⁹ when they are about to come again, ⁴⁷ the Most High will again hold back the sources ⁴ of the River [Euphrates],¹⁰ that they may be able to pass over. Therefore hast thou seen the multitude of men ¹¹ that was gathered together in peace. ⁴⁸ But they also that are left from thy people [shall live],¹⁰ they who are found within my holy borders. ⁴⁹ And it shall be when he shall destroy the multitude of the peoples that are gathered together, he will protect the people that remain; ⁵⁰ and then will he shew them many marvels.

51. And I said further to him: O Lord my Lord, make known to me this, wherefore I have seen the Man to come up from the heart of the sea.

52. And he answered and said to me: Just as one hath not the power to search out [and find]¹² or to know what is in the depths ¹³ of the sea, so can none

¹ L. omits.

² L. further.

³ L. signs.

⁴ Lit. outlets.

⁵ Cf. Josh. iii. 15.

⁶ So read (by a slight emendation).

⁷ Ethiop. *Asaph*: L. correctly *Arzareth* (= 'ereṣ 'ahereth, "another land" of Deut. xxix. 25 f. (Heb. 24 f.); see *E.A.*, p. 298).

⁸ Peculiar to the Syriac.

⁹ So Ethiop., but L. *now*.

¹⁰ Absent from the other Versions.

¹¹ L. *multitude*. ¹² Absent in other Versions.

¹³ Other Versions (except Arm.) have sing.

of those who are upon the earth see my Son or them that are with him,¹ except in that time in his day.² 53a. This is the interpretation of the vision which thou hast seen.

Transition to the Seventh Vision (XIII. 53b-58)

53b. Therefore there hath been revealed to thee these things, to thee alone,

54. because thou hast forsaken the things that are thine own,
and hast devoted thyself to the things which are ours,³

and hast searched out⁴ the things of the Law.⁴

55. For thy life thou hast directed in wisdom,
and hast called discernment "my⁵ mother."

56. Therefore have I shewed thee these things; for (there is) a reward with the Most High.

And it shall be after three⁶ days I will speak other things with thee, and will explain to thee⁷ the last marvels.⁷

57. And I went and walked in the field⁸ much and praised⁸ the Most High for the marvels which he had wrought at (different) times,⁹ 58. and (because) he directeth the times and what cometh in the times. And I sat¹⁰ there three days.

¹ i. e. Messiah's companions ? cf. vii. 28: or possibly a host of angels; cf. *E.A.*, p. 300.

² Cf. Luke xvii. 22.

³ L. *mine* (possibly we ought so to read here).

⁴ L. *my Law*.

⁵ L. *thy*; cf. Prov. vii. 4.

⁶ L. + *more*.

⁷ So Ar.¹; but L. *things difficult and marvellous*.

⁸ L. *and praised much*.

⁹ R.V. *from time to time*.

¹⁰ i. e. *abode* (a Hebraism).

VISION VII

(THE EZRA LEGEND) (Ch. XIV)

Ezra's Commission (XIV. 1-17)

XIV. 1. And it came to pass after this,¹ while I was sitting under an oak,² and lo ! a voice came out from a bush³ opposite me, and answered and said to me : Ezra, Ezra ! And I said : Behold (here) am I !⁴ And I rose upon my feet, and he said to me : 3. I did manifestly reveal myself from the bush, and talked with Moses when my people was enslaved in Egypt ; 4. and I sent him, and he⁵ led my people out of Egypt [and brought them into the wilderness]⁶ and led them up to⁷ Mount Sinai ; and I held him by me many days,

5. and explained to him many marvels, and made known to him the secrets of the times, and shewed him the consummation of the periods ;⁸

and I said to him : 6. Of these words some⁹ shalt thou keep secret, and some reveal.⁹

¹ L. (Ar.¹, Arm.) *the third day*.

² Some well-known oak (? near or in Jerusalem); cf. *Ap. Bar.* vi. 1, lxxvii. 18, and see *E.A.*, p. 307.

³ Cf. *Exod.* iii. 4.

⁴ L. + *Lord* (so Ar.²), but other Versions omit.

⁵ So Ar.¹, Ar.² and some MSS. of L., but other MSS. and *Ethiop.* and *Arm.*, *I.*

⁶ So Ar.¹; absent from other Versions.

⁷ Lit. *caused them to ascend*.

⁸ i. e. the sacred eschatological tradition, which was associated with the name of Moses (cf. the *Assumption of Moses*); see *E.A.*, p. 308.

⁹ These clauses are inverted in the other Versions: the secret "words" = Apocalyptic tradition; the published "words" = the Pentateuch ("Law of Moses").

7. And now I do say to thee, [Ezra]¹: 8. The signs which I have shewed thee previously, and the visions which thou hast seen, and their interpretation which thou hast heard—lay them up in thine heart, [and hide them].¹ 9. For thou shalt be taken up from men and shalt be henceforth with my Son, and with such as are like thee, until the times be ended.

10. For the world hath lost its youth,²
and the times are nigh to old age.³

13. Now, therefore, set in order thine house,⁴
and warn thy people;
and console their lowly ones,
[and instruct their wise];⁵
and give up henceforth⁶ this life corruptible,
14. ⁷ And let go from thee the burden⁸ of men,
and let go the thoughts of death,⁷
and cast off now the weak nature,
and lay aside these thoughts that oppress thee,
and hasten to remove⁹ from these times!

15. ¹⁰ For the evils that thou hast seen, which have come to pass now—even worse than these shall yet happen after them.¹⁰ 16. For as the world diminisheth through old age, so evils multiply upon the inhabitants of the earth.

17. For truth withdraweth further off,
and falsehood approacheth;¹¹

for already lo! there hasteneth to come the eagle that thou hast seen in vision.

¹ Added by Syriac.

² Cf. *Ap. Bar.* lxxxv. 10, and in our Book v. 50–55.

³ Lit. *to be old*: vers. 11–12 are absent from Syriac and Arm.; they may possibly be a later insertion, see *E.A.*, p. 310, and cf. R.V.

⁴ *i. e.* the House of Israel.

⁵ So Oriental Versions; L. omits.

⁶ Or *now*.

⁷ These clauses are thus transposed in the Syriac; other Versions invert; cf. 2 Cor. v. 4.

⁸ L. *burdens*.

⁹ Cf. Isa. lvii. 1.

¹⁰ L. *for yet worse evils than those which thou hast seen happen shall be done hereafter* (R.V.).

¹¹ Cf. vi. 27, 28, vii. 24.

Ezra prays for Inspiration (XIV. 18-26)

18. And I answered and said: Let me speak before thee, Lord! 19. Behold, I go as thou hast commanded me, and will warn the people who exist; those, however, who are yet to be born—who is to warn them?

20. For the world is set in darkness,
and its inhabitants (are) without light.¹

21. For the Law is burnt,² and no one knoweth the works that thou hast done,³ or what thou art about to do.⁴ 22. If, then, I have found favour before thee, send into me, [Lord],⁵ the Holy Spirit, and I will write all that hath happened in the world, from the beginning everything that hath been written in thy Law,⁶ that men may be enabled to find the path,⁷ and that they who would live at the last⁸ may⁹ know the way.⁹

23. And he answered and said to me: Go and gather together thy people, and tell them not to seek thee for forty days.¹⁰ 24. But do thou prepare for thyself many writing-tablets, and take with thee Seraia and Daria¹¹ and Shelemia, together with Helkana and Shiel,¹² these five¹³ men, because they are equipped for writing quickly; 25. and thou shalt come hither and I will light in thine heart a lamp of discernment which shall not be extinguished until

¹ *i. e.* without the light of the Law; cf. for the general idea Ephes. vi. 12.

² Cf. iv. 23.

³ *i. e.* the historical Books of the O.T.

⁴ *i. e.* the eschatological parts of the O.T.

⁵ Absent from the other Versions.

⁶ *Law* in the wide sense = the Holy Scriptures (of the O.T.); see *E.A.*, p. 313.

⁷ *Ethiop. + of life* (a correct gloss).

⁸ Cf. *Ap. Bar.* lxxvi. 5; for *life* = eternal life in such contexts; cf. *E.A.*, p. 313.

⁹ *L. live.*

¹⁰ Moses was in the mount 40 days (cf. Exod. xxxiv. 28); Ezra is the “second Moses.”

¹¹ Read *Dabria* as in L.

¹² ? *Asihel.*

¹³ See *E.A.*, p. 314.

thou shalt complete what thou art about to write. 26. And when thou shalt have finished, some of them thou shalt make public,¹ and some thou shalt² conceal, and shalt deliver them² to the wise; [for]³ tomorrow at this time thou shalt begin to write.

Ezra's Last Words (XIV. 27-36)

27. And I went, as he had commanded me, and gathered together all the people, and said to them :⁴ 28. Hear, Israel, these words. 29. Our fathers were formerly⁵ strangers in the land of Egypt, and were delivered from thence. 30. And they received the Law of life⁶ and kept it not, which⁷ you also after them have transgressed. 31. And a land was given to you for an inheritance in the land of Sion; but you and your fathers have committed iniquity and have not kept the ways which⁸ Moses, the servant of the Lord⁸ commanded you. 32. But the Most High, who is a judge of truth,⁹ took from you¹⁰ what for a time¹⁰ had been given to you. 33. And now ye are here in distress, and your brethren¹¹ are (further) inland (removed) from you¹¹ in another land. 34. If ye, then, will¹² admonish your soul,¹² and will discipline your heart; ye shall be preserved¹³ in your life,¹³

¹ *i. e.* publish to all.

² *L. deliver in secret.*

³ Added by Syriac.

⁴ For the following cf. Moses' farewell discourse in Deut. (chs. xxvii.-xxxii.).

⁵ Or *at the beginning*.

⁶ *i. e.* which could win life and immortality for those who observed it; cf. ix. 31 f.

⁷ So *L.* (? read *even as*; see *E.A.*, p. 316).

⁸ *L.* (Arm. *Ethiop.*) *the Most High*: the Syriac inserts *the Most High* at the beginning of the following verse.

⁹ *i. e.* a true or faithful judge.

¹⁰ *L. in due time what*: see *E.A.*, p. 316.

¹¹ *Or are further inland than you* (cf. *Ethiop.*): *L. are among you* (*i. e.* the Ten Tribes have already returned); see *E.A.*, p. 316 f.

¹² *L. rule over your understanding.*

¹³ *L. alive.*

and after death mercy shall befall¹ you.

35. For judgement cometh after death,
when we live again ;
and then shall the name² of the righteous be
revealed,
and the works of the ungodly be made manifest.

36. But let none approach unto me nor seek me for
forty days.

The Restoration of the Scriptures (XIV. 37-48)

37. And I took these five men as he had commanded me, and went into the field, and we remained there [as he had told me].³ 38. And it came to pass on the morrow,⁴ and lo ! a voice called to me, and said :

Ezra, [Ezra],⁵ open thy mouth
and drink what I give thee to drink !

39. And I opened my mouth and saw, (and lo !)
there came⁶ to me a full cup, and it was full as it
were (of) water, and its appearance⁷ was like fire.⁸
40. And I took and drank. And it came to pass
when I had drunk it, lo !

My heart overflowed with discernment,
and⁹ my breast poured forth wisdom,⁹
and my spirit retained memory.¹⁰

41. And my mouth was opened and was not shut.

42. But the Most High gave understanding to the
five men, and they wrote the things that were dic-

¹ Lit. *be upon*.

² L. *names*.

³ So Ar.²; the other Versions omit.

⁴ Lit. *on the day of the morrow*.

⁵ So Ar.¹, Ar.² and Arm., but L. and Ethiop. omit.

⁶ L. *was reached*.

⁷ Or *likeness* : L. *colour*.

⁸ The cup is the cup of inspiration filled with the 'Holy Spirit: the original inspiration of the Scriptures is here repeated; see *E.A.*, p. 318.

⁹ L. *wisdom grew in my breast*.

¹⁰ An interesting feature in this picture of inspiration; cf. *E.A.*, p. 319.

tated in order,¹ in written signs that they knew not.² And I³ sat there forty days; 43. but they wrote by day, and at night did eat bread [alone]⁴; I, however, dictated by day, and at night was not silent.⁵ 44. And in forty days were written ninety and four⁶ books. 45. And it came to pass when the forty days were completed, the Most High spake with me, and said to me: The twenty and four books that ye⁷ have written [first],⁸ make public that those who are worthy and those who are not worthy [from (among) the people]⁹ may read therein¹⁰: 46. but the seventy¹¹ thou shalt keep and deliver them to the wise of thy people. 47. For in them are

the veins¹² of understanding,
and the fountains¹³ of wisdom,
and the †stream†¹⁴ of knowledge.

48. And I did so¹⁵ in the seventh year, in the sixth week, after five thousand years of the creation, and three months and twelve days.¹⁶

¹ In unbroken succession (the root meaning of the word used is *flow*).

² *i.e.* in the "square" Hebrew script used in printed Hebrew: of this which replaced the old Hebrew script Ezra was regarded as the inventor; see *E.A.*, p. 319.

³ So Arm. (Ar.¹), but L. Ethiop. *we*.

⁴ Absent in other Versions.

⁵ Cf. 2 Enoch xxiii. 3 f. (Vretil dictates, and Enoch writes in 30 days and 30 nights 366 books).

⁶ So the Oriental Versions rightly; L. has 904 (and variants).

⁷ L. *thou (hast)*.

⁸ So all the Versions except L., which omits.

⁹ Added by Syriac.

¹⁰ The 24 books = the books of the O.T., which was read publicly in the synagogues; for the reckoning cf. *E.A.*, p. 320.

¹¹ L. + *last*: the 70 books = the Apocalyptic literature contained in secret books.

¹² *i.e.* *springs*: L. has *sing*.

¹³ L. *sing*.

¹⁴ So read (by a slight emendation).

¹⁵ Here text of L. breaks off; the remaining verses are preserved in the Oriental Versions.

¹⁶ = 5042 a.m. See *E.A.*, p. 321,

Conclusion of the Book (XIV. 49-50)

49. And thereupon¹ was Ezra caught away and taken to the place of such as were like him,² after he had written all these things. 50. But he was called the³ Scribe of the Knowledge of the Most High for ever and ever.³ Ended is the first discourse of Ezra.

¹ Lit. *in them* (the days mentioned).

² Cf. vi. 26, vii. 28, xiii. 52, xiv. 9.

³ Title of Enoch (cf. 1 Enoch xii. 3 f., xv. 1); see *E.A.*, p. 321.

APPENDIX

NOTE ON 4 EZRA XIV. 21 F. TRANSLATED FROM THE SYRIAC OF JACOB OF EDESSA

Nor wilt thou wonder that not all the books have reached us, which Solomon in his wisdom composed, when thou hearest that not even the sacred books which Moses wrote, nor even those of the prophets, have all reached us, but portions only of these, those namely which God gave to Ezra the priest to preserve and write, and administer, that they might be handed down and come to us, so that in them and from them we might learn the knowledge of those things that are befitting. But further, not even all those (writings) that Ezra wrote have reached us; for of the ninety books which it is written and alleged that he caused to be written, only those which are read in Church have reached us.

The above passage, which is extant at the end of the 13th Epistle of Jacob of Edessa, was published (in the Syriac text) by Dr. William Wright in *The Journal of Sacred Literature* for January 1867. Its reference to our Book seems to be unique in Syriac Literature so far as at present known. The last words may possibly imply that 4 Ezra was one of the books "which are read in Church," *i.e.* in the Syrian churches, but this is not certain. The number *ninety* should be corrected to *ninety-four*.

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